2014 ANNUAL RESULTS REPORT

CHILD PROTECTION
UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014–2017 is designed to fulfil the organization’s universal mandate of promoting the rights of every child and every woman, as put forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in the current international context. At the core of the Strategic Plan, UNICEF’s equity strategy – emphasizing the most disadvantaged and excluded children and families – translates UNICEF’s commitment to children’s rights into action. The first year of the Strategic Plan coincides with intensifying discussion in the international community on what the post-2015 development agenda will be. What follows is a report on what UNICEF set out to do in its Strategic Plan for 2014–2017 to advance the equity agenda through the organization’s work on child protection; what was achieved in 2014, in partnership with many diverse organizations and movements; and the impact of these accomplishments on the lives of children and families. This report is one of eight on the results of UNICEF’s efforts this past year, working in partnerships at the global, regional and country levels (one on each of the seven outcome areas of the Strategic Plan and one on humanitarian action). A results report on the UNICEF Gender Action Plan has also been prepared as an official UNICEF Executive Board document. The organization’s work has increasingly produced results across the development-humanitarian continuum, and in 2014, UNICEF contributed to an unprecedented level of humanitarian assistance and emergency response. The report lays out what was learned through reflection and analyses, and what is planned for next year. It is an annex and is considered to be integral to the Executive Director’s Annual Report 2014, UNICEF’s official accountability document for the past year.

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The Philippines 2014. On 1 February, a girl blows soap bubbles outside a child-friendly tent set up on the grounds of the Astrodome (the Tacloban City Convention Centre) in Tacloban City in Leyte Province, Eastern Visayas Region. The arena is serving as an evacuation centre for people displaced by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Tacloban City was among the areas worst affected by the disaster. A banner on the tent bears the UNICEF logo. UNICEF-supported child-friendly spaces provide educational and recreational activities and psychosocial support for children, in a safe and protective environment.
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The core outcome for child protection in UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014–2017 is the improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. Drawing on lessons learned and evidence generated during the 2006–2013 Medium-Term Strategic Plan, UNICEF programming in 2014 emphasized the strengthening of child protection systems and the support of those social changes necessary to better protect all children. In the current Plan, there is a renewed emphasis on birth registration as a fundamental building block for child protection; focus is placed on reducing the overall number of violent deaths; and there is a strong push to end child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) and the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

UNICEF’s integrated approach to child protection in 2014 addressed the full spectrum of risk factors and underlying vulnerabilities in the lives of children and their families, within both development and humanitarian contexts. To meet this end, UNICEF focused on a number of core outputs that drove its programming across seven areas.

Among the notable 2014 results for children, 35 per cent of UNICEF-supported countries engaged in birth registration activities, resulting in the registration of the births of approximately 14.6 million children. There are now 114 countries providing free and universal birth registration services, compared with 107 in the previous year. Across 53 countries, an estimated 5.6 million (5,628,531) children and young people were reached with UNICEF-supported programmes to address armed violence. In 2014, almost 4.5 million (4,469,081) children age 5–17 years involved in child labour were reached specifically through a combination of UNICEF-supported education, social protection or child protection interventions in 55 countries. Programmes addressing FGM/C and child marriage reached at least 5.6 million people ranging from youth to adult women and men, religious leaders, and traditional and elected leaders. In 2014, 1,007 communities across 13 countries publicly declared that they were abandoning FGM/C. There are now 18 countries with national strategies or plans on child marriage, and 7 of these are costed.

In addition to ending practices and behaviours harmful to children, strengthening child protection systems is an essential component of UNICEF-supported work in this outcome area. In 2014, 137 countries worked on this area, a significant increase from 74 countries in 2013. This encompassed enhancing the capacity of the social welfare work force, standard-setting, and budgeting for child protection. Half of UNICEF country offices worked towards strengthening justice for children systems, such as promoting the use of diversion away from judicial proceedings and alternative measures to detention.

To lay a solid foundation for child protection programmes, UNICEF continued to support governments in strengthening legislation related to, among other things, justice, alternative care and violence, exploitation and abuse, aligning it with international standards. At the end of 2014, 71 countries supported justice for children system strengthening work, with 10 countries adopting progressive laws; 58 countries reported having an Alternative Care Policy in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children; and corporal punishment had been prohibited in the home in 44 countries (compared with 36 in 2013).

Behaviour change is at the heart of child protection, targeting entrenched norms and practices that lead to violence, abuse and exploitation. In 2014, UNICEF continued to support capacities of children and families to protect themselves and eliminate harmful practices and behaviours. At least 52 countries addressed the issue of violence against children in schools, particularly peer-to-peer violence, and violence perpetrated by school staff. Twenty-four countries focused on strengthening parenting and home visiting programmes and community-based interventions. At least 70 countries supported government and civil society to prevent and respond to sexual abuse and exploitation through legal and policy reform, services for victims and prevention efforts. By the end of 2014, 169 States had ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, representing 86 per cent of all United Nations Member States, as compared with two thirds at the time of the campaign launch in May 2010.
UNICEF worked to protect children in six large-scale Level 3 emergencies in the Central African Republic, Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Seventy-three country offices responded to child protection needs in humanitarian situations regardless of scale, including new and ongoing situations. About 3.1 million children received psychosocial support and access to child-friendly spaces, many of them in protracted conflicts. Psychosocial support to children in communities affected by Ebola reached more than 36,000 children across all three countries. More than 15,000 children lost both of their parents or their primary caregivers to the disease and were provided with support so that they could be placed with family, extended family or in some other form of permanent care in their communities. Some 432,757 children – primarily girls – and women received some form of multi-sectoral support services in response to gender-based violence (GBV) across 35 countries; 11,981 unaccompanied and separated children were reunified with their parents or their primary caregivers to the disease and were provided with support so that they could be placed with family, extended family or in some other form of permanent care in their communities. Some 432,757 children – primarily girls – and women received some form of multi-sectoral support services in response to gender-based violence (GBV) across 35 countries; 11,981 unaccompanied and separated children were reunified with their families or caregivers, while 33,000 children were placed in appropriate (interim or long term) ‘alternative care’, including foster family arrangements. In all 10,204 children were released by armed forces/armed groups, and 8,390 children received re-integration assistance. UNICEF supported monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in humanitarian situations in 15 countries, and contributed to the first-ever Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict in the African Union in Addis Ababa in September 2014.

Children’s protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect as a universal issue gained significant traction throughout 2014, including the Global Summit to Prevent Sexual Violence in Conflict (United Kingdom, June), the Girl Summit focusing on Child Marriage and FGM/C (United Kingdom, July), the Summit on Online Sexual Exploitation of Children (United Kingdom, December) and the meeting on Birth Registration and Information and Communication Technologies (Bern, December) – all of which involved UNICEF leadership and support. Global advocacy drove policy declarations, committed new and significant funding and increased government, United Nations and partner dedication. Southern engagement and global political will are deepening and, importantly, the truly global nature of child protection and, in particular, violence is increasingly understood. For example, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C received commitments equalling its four-year budget of US$54 million, and the Girl Summit saw more than 47 governments call for an end to FGM/C. As part of the global drive to end child marriage across 12 countries, US$45 million has been committed, with additional commitments expected in 2016. There is also a growing national up-take by civil society and governments of concerns such as violence (including sexual violence and violent injuries), free and universal birth registration, child labour and governance. More than 70 countries engaged in multiple advocacy and awareness activities as a result of the #ENDviolence against children initiative during 2014.

The proposed integration of goals and targets to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in the proposed goals and targets of the draft sustainable development goals (SDGs) offers an unprecedented opportunity, both nationally and globally, to address violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children. Towards the end of 2014, discussions took place with civil society partners, foundations, United Nations Member States and others in the United Nations family to explore ways to build a multi-stakeholder global partnership to support the achievement of draft SDGs related to the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Although deliberations were still ongoing at the end of 2014, it is envisaged that a new global partnership will support nationally led plans.

At the global and regional levels, the number of platforms for multi-country ‘cluster’ programming grew in 2014. UNICEF engaged with a core group of 12 countries to end child marriage; work around FGM/C concentrated in 17 countries, and global armed violence reduction and prevention focused on 9 priority countries. Together with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Children and Armed Conflict, UNICEF launched the Children, Not Soldiers’ campaign to end child recruitment by state forces by 2016, which is focused on eight governments. As a measure of the campaign’s success, Chad has achieved full compliance with the Action Plan to end and prevent child recruitment and use and has been delisted. The Sudan is negotiating its Action Plan, and the remaining six governments (Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen) have already signed and are in the process of implementing their respective Action Plans. The ‘Together for Girls’ initiative (United Nations agencies, the Governments of the United States and Canada, and private-sector partners) hosted a global meeting in Swaziland with 200 par-
Strengthening internal and external capacity to provide quality guidance and technical support to advocate for and support the implementation of intervention strategies achieving results for children is a driving factor in the Strategic Plan 2014–2017. The first global evaluation of UNICEF programmes to protect children in emergencies was completed and the management response was presented to the Executive Board. The global evaluation of the Joint Programme on FGM/C management response was endorsed at the Executive Boards of UNFPA and UNICEF. Additionally, the first global evaluation of UNICEF-supported programmes to prevent and respond to violence against children commenced.

In addition, 2014 marked important milestones in terms of developing a growing body of knowledge detailing what works to address violence, alongside examples of effective programmatic interventions. Two flagship publications, ‘Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children’, and a companion document, ‘Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action’, were released to coincide with the launch of phase II of the #ENDviolence against children initiative. At the regional and national level, a number of data-related activities are of note, including a statistical snapshot of violence against children in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CEE/CIS) and in West and Central Africa; data on birth registration in Latin America and the Caribbean; and a statistical country profile on FGM/C in Indonesia.

A framework for financial benchmarking was developed in 2014 that will be piloted in 2015. Various knowledge management tools have been employed to share and exchange knowledge, including the child protection system webinar series and the launch of the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) website. UNICEF worked with partners to further strengthen application of the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES). In October 2014, a regional workshop on child protection and MoRES built staff capacity from 10 country offices in the Middle East and North Africa, with all countries developing road maps for integrating the MoRES approach in child protection programming with partners in 2015.

Despite progress, data gaps in child protection hamper evidence-based decision-making. Recent years have seen marked advancements at the global, regional and national levels in evidence generation, yet many countries still do not have routine child protection information management and data collection systems to assess the scale and scope of child protection risks and violations, or systems in place to monitor learning outcomes or track whether the most marginalized children are reached with available preventive and responsive services. Moreover, the child protection sector is impacted by a lack of trained professionals. In terms of systems strengthening, it is vital that emphasis is placed on ensuring an adequate trained workforce, particularly in terms of a skilled social welfare sector. Additionally, large-scale crises that erupted around the world in 2014 have depleted surge resources and reinforced the need for greater capacity development in child protection as part of humanitarian action.

Globally and within UNICEF, there remains a shortage of staff with capacities to address the wide range of protection issues across development and humanitarian contexts. The first initiatives to address capacity building are under development: a Child Protection in Emergencies Post Graduate Diploma at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa and a Graduate-Level Child Protection Certificate programme from Harvard University’s School of Public Health in the United States. Additional educational programmes are expanding to academic institutions in other countries. UNICEF’s new e-learning platform, Agora, has a child protection module, the first resource pack on child protection planning and monitoring and evaluation is nearing finalization, and a revision of the Guidelines for Humanitarian Contexts of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on GBV was completed.

Moving forward, UNICEF will continue to work with partners on the finalization of the SDGs and underlying monitoring framework for child protection. Gains made in advancing global partnerships to improve coordination for child protection, especially in the context of the SDG roll-out, will be further enhanced. Moreover, UNICEF will continue to support increased access to services and improved service delivery mechanisms, including in humanitarian situations. Ensuring greater strategic and programmatic synergy between systems strengthening and the role of families and communities to promote positive norms and behaviours remains key. UNICEF will support innovations such as the global financial benchmarking for child protection,
and technological advancements to strengthen results for children, especially the most vulnerable and hard to reach. To support these many initiatives, UNICEF will explore ways to further generate child protection knowledge and data for ongoing quality improvements. UNICEF will mainstream the Monitoring Results for Equity System (MoRES) for equity-focused programming that is based on improved evidence and monitoring.

UNICEF’s total expenditure for child protection in 2014 amounted to US$514 million. Regular resources – unearmarked, unrestricted funds – accounted for 28.3 per cent of expenditure (US$146 million). The remaining expenditure (US$368 million) is drawn from earmarked or other resources, which include, among others, pooled funding modalities, including thematic funding. Nine per cent of other resources (equivalent to US$22 million) are thematic funding specifically earmarked for child protection. Two funders – the Governments of Sweden and Norway – accounted for approximately 70 per cent of this funding. There is a clear need to diversify and expand funding streams, both in terms of increasing the number of thematic donors, as well as increasing the level of regular, unrestricted funding to enable greater flexibility in child protection programming.

Promising commitments to fund core elements of child protection are emerging, such as civil registration and vital statistics, child marriage and FGM/C. There are other critical areas of work, however, that are constrained by a lack of investment (especially flexible, non-earmarked investment), notably around violence against children. Making meaningful change takes time, and the UNICEF Child Protection sector relies heavily on flexible funding to provide essential programmatic space to enable long-term planning, create programmatic cohesion, promote innovation and sustain work that may otherwise cease or be stalled. The progress and results outlined in the following report provide a clear indication to donors of the critical importance of investing in achieving results to prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children.

**STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

This past year marked the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the Convention’s inception, the global landscape to protect children has changed dramatically. Child protection issues are firmly rooted in global deliberations; strong partnerships are being forged; and marked results are being observed globally, regionally and nationally. States are increasingly strengthening multi-sectoral approaches to mainstream child protection into broader systems and processes, improving access to a wide range of services, and improving prevention through promoting positive changes in behaviour and practice – all within the context of strengthening families and communities that promote a child’s well-being and across the life cycle. More countries are ratifying international standards and treaties, and establishing legislative frameworks with child-sensitive laws and policies that are being translated into enforceable action plans and programmes.

Child protection as a universal issue has gained significant traction throughout 2014. The United Nations Global Survey for a Better World – The World We Want¹ – polled 7 million people worldwide as part of efforts to invigorate civil society’s voice in the post-2015 debates. Protection from crime and violence was identified as the sixth top priority – an important message for decision makers as we move towards defining the SDGs. To highlight the scale of the problems, UNICEF published new global data on a range of core issues, such as FGM/C,² birth registration³ and, most recently in 2014, two flagship reports. ‘Hidden in Plain Sight: A statistical analysis of violence against children’ is the largest-ever compilation of data on the subject of violence against children. The report sheds light on the prevalence of different forms of violence against children – ranging from physical violence to sexual and emotional violence – with global figures and data from 190 countries relying mainly on information gathered
through internationally comparable sources. The accompanying document, ‘Ending Violence Against Children: Six Strategies for Action’, spells out in clear terms what steps need to be taken to prevent and respond to violence. Furthermore, the Global Initiative, Know Violence in Childhood, launched in November 2014 convened leading experts and thinkers to stimulate rigorous, evidence-based debate on the causes, consequences and solutions of violence in childhood, and promote learning and action across national, sectoral and disciplinary boundaries.

Major global and regional developments in 2014 helped create and maintain momentum for child protection throughout the year. More than 70 countries engaged in multiple advocacy and awareness activities as a result of the #ENDviolence against children initiative. UNICEF’s voice was heard at numerous global and regional forums. Particularly noteworthy is the Global Violence Reduction Conference, jointly convened by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the University of Cambridge, which brought together 150 global experts in violence prevention from academia, United Nations agencies including UNICEF, and major international and philanthropic organizations to discuss ways to achieve sustained violence reduction in the next 30 years. Further, the cross-sectoral dimension needed to combat child protection was evidenced at the 67th World Health Assembly in May 2014, with the passing of a resolution requiring WHO to prepare its first-ever global plan of action on strengthening the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence, particularly against women and children, by January 2016. UNICEF’s collaboration with the Together for Girls Partnership to bring together more than 20 countries to share evidence and practice on the prevention and response to violence against children, with a focus on sexual violence and girls, is building on the national violence against children surveys and related data collection efforts that have taken place in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Additionally, the collaboration is helping to chart a plan of action to strengthen both the data and programme aspects of the work.

Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals

This tide of energy is bolstering discourse around the post-2015 agenda. In addition to efforts of United Nations Member States; UNICEF and partners took an active role in driving forward deliberations for inclusion of child protection into the post-2015 framework. The draft SDGs have enjoyed an extensive and participatory consultative process, involving Member States, United Nations agencies, civil society, the private sector and large numbers of global citizens including young people. UNICEF co-led a number of thematic consultations that have propelled the issues of child protection in the post-2015 debate. In October 2014 UNICEF, WHO, the Center on International Cooperation and others collaborated on a report entitled ‘If Not Now, When? Ending violence against the world’s children’. The report makes the case that the greatest acceleration of effort is needed in the protection of children from violence, including action to meet the draft SDG targets to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. A round table discussion was held in December in New York, attended by representatives from the five global child-focused organizations and other United Nations entities (WHO and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children), aimed to reach consensus on a set of minimum indicators for inclusion in the post-2015 agenda.

The substance of the SDG agenda offers an unprecedented opportunity, both nationally and globally, to address violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect of children, which that will build on international commitments, obligations under international law and the progress of the MDGs; and also address gaps in the current monitoring landscape. The Open Working Group has proposed an inte-

“CHILD protection issues were not part of the Millennium Development Goals — a serious omission... Too many countries that have made progress in cutting child and infant mortality... in battling malnutrition and illiteracy... are still struggling to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation. The post-2015 agenda presents an opportunity to correct this to draw more global attention, focus, investment and action to this vital issue... and to set a target that must be pursued, if children’s rights are to be upheld in a more meaningful way.”

Anthony Lake
UNICEF Executive Director, February 2014
integrated approach to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children, and a number of targets for child protection are under consideration.

GOAL 5 relates to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and includes, among other aims, targets to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (5.1); eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (5.2); and eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and FGM/C (5.3).

GOAL 8 relates to promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the need to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and, by 2025, end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers.

GOAL 16 relates to promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Targets include, among others, reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere (16.1); ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children (16.2); and providing legal identity for all including birth registration by 2030 (16.9).

Each of these goals and targets aligns directly with the child protection outputs and corresponding targets set out in the Strategic Plan 2014–2017.

**FORGING PARTNERSHIPS**

Growing partnerships are critical to furthering UNICEF’s child protection work in 2014. UNICEF worked closely with the three SRSGs for Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), Violence against Children (VAC) and Sexual Violence in Conflict. Joint missions with the SRSG for CAAC and joint technical meetings with the SRSG on VAC have helped to bring high-level visibility and advocacy to the work of the sector.

A new global partnership of the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, UNICEF and the OSRSN for CAAC was implemented through the development of strategy for preventing child recruitment and use. The first Open Session of the African Union Peace and Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict took place in May 2014. UNICEF continued to provide ongoing leadership and close collaboration with the Global Child Protection Working Group and relevant task forces to provide technical assistance for child protection response in emergencies. Another major public-private partnership, Together for Girls, expanded by end 2014 to 20 countries (up from 3 countries in 2009). In addition, the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C is a significant partnership entering into a critical second phase.

Towards the end of 2014, UNICEF engaged in discussions to explore ways to build a multi-stakeholder global partnership to support the achievement of draft SDGs related to the protection of children from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect. Though deliberations were still ongoing as of end 2014, it is envisaged that a new global partnership will support nationally led plans. Signs of global pledges to fund key child protection issues also came at the end of 2014 at the ‘We Protect Children Online’ Global Summit held in London, with commitment from the Government of the United Kingdom to support efforts to identify and protect more child victims of online child abuse. UNICEF and other partners are engaged in discussions to develop this and other commitments into a broader partnership and funding mechanism to end violence against children, as well as to strengthen, among others, national social welfare systems and child protection in emergencies. Modalities will be defined in early 2015.

In 2014, UNICEF’s East and South Africa Regional Office (ESARO) participated in a high-level technical consultation on investment strategies and global costings for improving civil registry and vital statistics (CRVS) systems organized by the World Bank and WHO, sponsored by Canada’s Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development. The plan’s goal is to reach universal registration of births, deaths and other vital events, including reporting cause of death by 2030. ESARO provided technical assistance to the development of four investment case studies, two of which are in the region (Ethiopia and Mozambique). These investment case models will be used to design the Global Financing Facility for the Reproductive, Maternal, Neonatal, Adolescent and Child Health initiative to be formally launched in July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, thus strategically positioning UNICEF Child Protection as a critical partner to the Facility.
UNICEF’s New Strategic Framework

UNICEF’s core outcome for child protection in the Strategic Plan 2014–2017 is to ensure improved and equitable prevention of and response to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect of children. Evidence from the past strategic plan cycle has resulted in critical refinements to UNICEF’s strategies on child protection. To better incorporate the most vulnerable and marginalized children, the outcome area of child protection now includes the protection of children from neglect. To achieve this end, UNICEF has set out four key outputs over the next four years. The first three outputs apply across all contexts, development and humanitarian, while the fourth concerns humanitarian action.

Output 1: Enhanced support and increased capacities of children and families to protect themselves and to eliminate practices and behaviours harmful to children. To achieve this, focus is placed on demand-led actions that promote changes in the behaviour of children, families and communities, increasing knowledge and stimulating greater engagement and participation.

Output 2: Increased national capacity to provide access to child protection systems that prevent and respond to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect. To achieve this, focus is placed on supply-led actions that aim to improve both the availability of the appropriate services and their accessibility.

Output 3: Strengthened political commitment, accountability and national capacity to legislate, plan and budget for scaling up interventions that prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation. To achieve this, it is critical to enhance the enabling environment (such as human resources, finance, laws and policies, and governance) so that national child protection systems are relevant, coordinated and sustainable. Critical to achieving this, in turn, is evidence generation, policy dialogue and advocacy.

Output 4: Increased country capacity and delivery of services to ensure that child’s rights to protection from violence, abuse and exploitation are sustained and promoted in humanitarian situations. Collaboration with partners is critical to minimize the impact of armed conflict and natural disasters on children through the provision of psychosocial support, referral for services and case management and of support for the release and reintroduction of children recruited or used by armed forces and armed groups. UNICEF is the lead United Nations agency on risk education to protect communities from landmines and other explosive remnants of war, and also provides assistance to victims and survivors. The organization works with partners to provide safe spaces for children and women to prevent and respond to GBV, and also supports efforts at family tracing and reunification.

Building upon the lessons learned under the previous Medium Term Strategic Plan 2006–2013, it is recognized that, first and foremost, there is a growing understanding of a child protection system that has expanded beyond just government to include non-state actors, children, families and communities. Change in child protection takes time, as better protection frequently takes root in changing perceptions and attitudes, rather than only through provision of a commodity or service.

Within the parameters of the Strategic Plan, and at the output level, UNICEF remains committed to working with governments and other stakeholders to make meaningful change in a range of critical child protection issues through the provision of high-quality prevention, protection and response services that result in positive changes in the lives of millions of children at risk. UNICEF implements an integrated approach to child protection that addresses the full spectrum of risk factors and underlying vulnerabilities in the lives of children and their families, and focuses on four core outputs. Given the emphasis UNICEF places on strengthening of child protection systems and support for social change for improved protection of children, the Strategic Plan has set out seven key areas of programming that maximize actions to ensure achievement of its outputs. These programming areas take into account the interplay between child protection systems and social norms, both in development and humanitarian contexts, and recognize that child protection issues span, among others, the care, justice and civil registration domains.
PLANNING AND RESULTS OUTLINED BY PROGRAMME AREA

The Strategic Plan 2014–2017 identifies seven programme areas that will form the crux of UNICEF’s programming and investments over the next three years to meet the targets laid out in its core outputs. The following section outlines the major results and progress made that contribute towards increasing demand (output 1), strengthening supply-led services (output 2), creating an enabling environment (output 3), and increasing capacity and delivery of services in humanitarian situations.

PROGRAMME AREA 1 – CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Almost without exception, countries have some form of child protection legislation in place. However, in many countries, legislation still falls short of international standards established by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties. One common problem is that in many countries legislation does not recognize a child’s right to be heard (article 12 of the Convention). UNICEF promotes the strengthening of all components of child protection systems – human resources, finances, laws, standards, governance, monitoring and services. Depending on the context, child protection systems may include or work closely with the social welfare, education, health, justice, labour and security sectors and, increasingly, with information and communication technologies (ICTs), travel and tourism.

In 2014, total global expenditure for child protection systems strengthening, mapping and assessments and budget tracking amounted to US$54 million.11

FIGURE 1
CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS 2014 GLOBAL EXPENDITURE: US$54 MILLION

*The global expenditure data in Figure 1 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.
MAPPING AND ASSESSING CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEMS

At least 48 UNICEF country offices either supported the mapping and assessment of national child protection systems, or used the information gathered in earlier mappings to move forward with child protection policy and implementation. Twenty country offices supported mappings and assessments of national systems or parts of the system – bringing the total number of countries having mapped their systems to 124.

UNICEF Albania contributed to the drafting of the law on the Order of Social Workers, which marked an important step towards the institutionalization of the social work profession. UNICEF Egypt facilitated the drafting of an executive decree on the implementation of child protection committees. In Guyana, findings led to the identification of two major policy areas and, in turn, to a revised juvenile justice bill and a draft alternative care policy, both in line with international standards. In Nigeria, the Federal Capital Territory and four states have now completed detailed mappings and assessments of their child protection systems, identifying the steps needed to operationalize the Child Rights Act 2003. To support the costing of the system and to advocate for increased allocation for child protection, a social welfare services costing framework was developed by the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, identifying 72 services making up the minimum package to be delivered at state level.

From a regional perspective, UNICEF’s East Asia and Pacific Regional Office finalized an exercise to map out and assess the governance of national child protection systems. The Child Protection Governance Indicators Framework, piloted in Fiji, Vanuatu, Indonesia and the Philippines, provides a comprehensive analysis of the functioning of each country’s child protection systems according to standardized benchmarks, and identifies next systems development steps.

For the first time, the UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014–2017 tracks in its annual reporting process the state of the child protection systems across programme countries. Also, 2014 data will form a baseline to chart progress over the strategic period:

• In 2014, 79 countries – including Afghanistan, China, Gabon, Serbia, South Africa and Suriname – stated that their child protection system has both preventive and response services, but that these do not work well together.

• 38 countries – including Albania, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria and the Sudan – reported that their child protection system has either preventive or response services.

• 37 countries – including Botswana, Brazil, Chad, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia and Senegal – stated that their child protection system has both preventive and responsive services plus an accompanying framework for coordination.

• Most country offices (137) reported working specifically on efforts to strengthen their child protection systems.

The majority of these countries still require considerable efforts to further strengthen their systems.

BUDGET ANALYSIS AND TRACKING

UNICEF supported 60 countries on work to strengthen national child protection budgets: 31 countries reported increased national child protection budgets compared with 2013; 18 countries reported no change; and 11 countries reported a decrease in budgetary allocations.

At least 50 countries worked on child-related budgeting in 2014, with at least 7 countries specifically supporting capacity-building interventions.

UNICEF supports strengthening national capacities to budget and track expenditures on child protection, such as working with ministries of finance to develop nationally comparable benchmarks for expenditures on child protection services. UNICEF also advocates with political leaders to ensure that countries dedicate resources to child protection. In the UNICEF Barbados and the East Caribbean region, a three-day sub-regional training workshop on ‘Public Finance for Children: Building Capacity and Identifying Opportunities in the Eastern Caribbean Area’, equipped participants with practical country-level tools and methodologies in public finance for children. In Peru, UNICEF supported the multi-sectoral commission of the National Plan of Action for Children and Adolescents 2012–2021 to make better-informed decisions on the budget allocated for the implementation of the plan, using an analytical tool designed to track public spending in
children and adolescents. This tool links all child-related plans and strategies within the national budget database with the corresponding 25 National Plan results, allowing analysis of the budget initially allocated, any adjustments during the year, and actual budget spending. It also allows analysis of the budget by sector, programme, government level, life cycle and individual child rights. In the United Republic of Tanzania, child protection budget guidelines were used to train 110 members from four district council teams and district child protection teams to ensure that decision makers on resource allocation know how to budget for child protection.

**CAPACITY BUILDING**

Building the capacity of the social services workforce is one of the key pillars in a strengthening child protection system. To this end, at least 94 UNICEF country offices supported the training of more than 14,000 members of the social services workforce in 2014.

In Ghana, UNICEF engaged with the Schools of Social Work and Community Development on curriculum reform, specifically the integration of the Child and Family Welfare Policy into the trainings offered for social workers and community works, to align trainings with the child protection systems strengthening agenda. UNICEF Mongolia supported the training of dormitory teachers at boarding schools to better support 12,000 children from the nomadic herding communities. In the United Republic of Tanzania, 15 national social welfare facilitators were trained as a core team on national child protection standards; the core team in turn trained 185 members of district child protection teams and other front-line workers. In Viet Nam, training was provided to 90 social welfare managers and 50 university lecturers and social welfare managers. In addition, 42 heads of community child protection committees and 65 community collaborators received case management training. UNICEF country offices also strengthened the role of the social welfare workforce through legal developments or support to training curricula. In Yemen, the Ministry of Civil Services formally recognized the title ‘social worker’ when recruiting social work graduates.

**CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES**

Cross-sectoral linkages are important for successful implementation of a systems approach. UNICEF places great emphasis on engaging with the health and education sectors, given the opportunities for synergistic action around issues such as birth registration, child marriage, early childhood development and violence. At least 30 country offices provide clear evidence of programming to support the development of cross-sectoral coordination. UNICEF El Salvador supported inter-sectoral coordination to support the implementation of the Integrated National Protection System for Childhood and Adolescence by developing a number of relevant national plans and strategies. Findings from the mapping and assessment in Lesotho led to a costed National Multi-sectoral Child Protection Strategy and implementation plan. In the Republic of Moldova, a national inter-sectoral mechanism was established to refer cases of violence and neglect between the police, social welfare, health and education sectors; national roll-out, with the support of NGO partners, has currently reached 13 out of 37 districts.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

Globally, UNICEF supports alignment and coordination with other United Nations agencies and international groups to promote harmonization of efforts for greater results for children. UNICEF is collaborating with Save the Children UK on global systems strengthening around the development of child protection systems typologies. UNICEF partners closely with the Better Care Network in addressing issues relating to children without parental care, both in relation to the prevention of the need for children to leave their families and in strengthening responses to necessary family separation. UNICEF is an active partner with a range of global, regional and inter-agency collaborations in each of its seven programme intervention areas (see each programme area of intervention for further details).

**CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

Many countries are on a path to strengthening the components required for a systems-based approach to child protection; however, a key lesson learned that is critical to the achievement of targets in this area is the need to approach systems strengthening in a coordinated and comprehensive way. This can, at times, start with the understanding of what constitutes the rights of the child. Effective change takes time. An ongoing challenge is the need to continue to harmonize legislation
with international standards, and translate current and future national legislation into subnational action and enforcement. Though many countries have ratified international commitments in child protection, political and social consensus can be lacking on some of the key protection issues, such as child marriage, corporal punishment or juvenile justice, which obstructs further progress and actual implementation of a number of international standards. One of the greater challenges around child protection systems strengthening remains the question on how to measure and evaluate the impact of child protection systems in relation to individual children, particularly over relatively short time frames. Establishing coordination structures for child protection with clear, delineated lines of responsibility remains a challenge for many countries, particularly in securing whole-of-government policy processes and ensuring effective streamlining of who is doing what to minimize duplication of effort, improve cohesion over roles and responsibilities, and better channel budget flows. In some countries, working-level coordination across ministries and agencies remains issue-based and mostly focused on the individual sector programmes and priorities.

**PROGRAMME AREA 2 – VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

During 2014, efforts to address violence, exploitation and abuse became even more firmly embedded in UNICEF’s work at the global, regional and national levels. UNICEF’s Strategic Plan has propelled work related to violence against children as a key global priority as we enter the post-2015 period. In 2014, the total global expenditure for interventions to combat violence, exploitation and abuse of children amounted to US$49.5 million. One important contributor is the increased visibility of the #ENDviolence against children initiative, which links programmatic interventions with a global and local communication effort.

A UNICEF study to estimate the direct and indirect costs of child maltreatment in East Asia and the Pacific found that the economic burden of child maltreatment in one year could total US$150 billion to US$160 billion (about 2 per cent of the region’s gross domestic product). While tremendous progress is observed in measuring the prevalence and incidence of violence against children, because of its nature, the full extent of the problem is not known. What we do know, however, is deeply troubling (see Snapshot of statistics: Violence against children, below).

**FIGURE 2**

**VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE 2014 GLOBAL EXPENDITURE: US$49.5 MILLION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevent and address child labour</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent and address sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent and address GBV, sexual abuse and sexual exploitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevent and address emotional and physical violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prevent incidences of armed violence against children and children’s involvement in armed violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adolescent development and protection from violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence against children</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* The global expenditure data in Figure 2 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.
Throughout 2014, significant attention was generated in the #ENDviolence against children initiative, bolstering fundraising, mobilizing political will and positioning child protection leadership and goals on the global agenda. Every region engaged in the buy-in, roll-out and implementation of the campaign, and 32 country offices allocated special funding for related activities. Overall, at least 70 countries in the past year unveiled different initiatives. In India, the second phase of the initiative was launched with the slogan #ItStartsWithMe: initial results indicate nearly 9 million people were reached with almost 120,000 people engaged on different platforms. About 41 countries throughout all regions carried out communication and social media initiatives. Brazil’s efforts were particularly noteworthy. To coincide with Brazil hosting the FIFA World Cup in 2014, a smartphone application, Proteja Brasil, was launched to enable users to report cases of violence against children while present in one of the World Cup 12 host cities. Moreover, some 20 countries across all regions carried out extensive capacity-building initiatives, often coupled with production of knowledge management tools, and many countries created new laws and policies addressing violence against children, including Algeria, Cambodia, Ghana, Grenada, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malawi, Mongolia and Papua New Guinea. Mongolia’s efforts were particularly significant with the finalization of the revision of a law on combating domestic violence and development of a law on child protection to address procedural gaps in existing laws.

In 2014, at least 52 country offices addressed the issue of violence against children in schools in its various forms, including ensuring that school policy frameworks are in place to serve as the foundation for programmes and services. In the United Republic of Tanzania, a teacher’s code of conduct for violence prevention in schools was developed and Tuseme clubs were established in 245 primary schools, reaching 12,000 boys and girls. In Ghana, a guidance and counselling policy was developed that – for the first time – includes child protection issues. In Uganda, reporting, tracking, referral and response guidelines for schools were developed, and additional outreach by the police resulted in 93,830 children in 300 schools receiving related information. Violence in the home and GBV were also addressed in the education setting. In Serbia, a national survey on the prevalence of GBV and related training helped to raise understanding for more than 2,525 teachers and 10,500 female and 11,100 male pupils from 50 schools. Ensuring youth engagement in the prevention of violence was also a key element when addressing violence in schools. In Somalia, 4,000 children (50 per cent girls) are participating in Child-to-Child clubs in schools. Moreover, child protection committees supported 11,260 children (61 per cent girls).

Forty-four states achieved full prohibition of corporal punishment, including in the home. Moreover, at least 24 country offices undertook programme activities to strengthen the capacity of parents to care for and protect their children from violence in the home. Argentina ratified the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
and banned corporal punishment within families, in the recently approved Civil and Commercial Code. In Belarus, legislation changes to prohibit corporal punishment within the family setting and introduce mandatory reporting on cases of violence against children were passed and came into force in November 2014. Furthermore, efforts to protect children, including in early childhood, resulted in the implementation of joint UNICEF-UNFPA nationwide campaign aiming to prevent and counteract violence against children. Parents were provided with an information kit on violence against children, which included recommendations on how to care for children, including those under the age of 3, without using violent methods of discipline.

**PREVENTING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Tourism is one of the most important economic activities for the Dominican Republic, accounting for 4.3 per cent of its gross domestic product. With more than 6 million tourists visiting the country last year, it generates more than 561,000 direct and indirect jobs. Although there are no reliable estimates, recent research suggests that between 250 and 600 adolescents could potentially be victims of sexual exploitation in the tourist area of Boca Chica alone. Tourism in itself is not the cause of sexual exploitation, but weak child protection institutions can provide an environment that lends itself to sex tourism. Such concerns led UNICEF to develop an innovative partnership with national authorities, civil society, communities and the travel and tourism sector to implement a two-year initiative (2014–2016) to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and improve national capacity to protect victims and prosecute the criminals. One year into the project, initial results are encouraging:

- **• Joining forces with local child protection authorities and NGOs, the Attorney General’s Office has established six local investigation roundtables to document cases and improve the investigation, analysis and prosecution of crimes.**

- **• To strengthen the prosecution of crimes, CESTUR – the Tourist Police – has already incorporated a prevention and prosecution module into its training curriculum and trained 17 officers as child protection instructors, who in turn are training 72 local agents.**

- **• The National Association of Restaurants and Hotels invited 15 of the main hotels to sign the global Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism, and to support the Guest with Heart initiative, which encourages social responsibility within the tourism industry.**

- **• In 2014, three new hotelier associations and tour operators and six tourism companies had signed the Code of Conduct, and about 7,500 hotel staff were trained on the issues.**

- **• A total of 1,594 community leaders and members of parents’ associations, local groups, 315 school counsellors and directors, 5,808 adolescents, 99 public health professionals and 11,324 students were informed about how to prevent and report sexual exploitation; in addition, 56 journalists received practical training for the management of information on issues related to child sexual exploitation.**

Moving forward, UNICEF will continue to encourage hotels and tourism service providers to implement the Code of Conduct, as well as support a national campaign for tourists. Training will be rolled out further to the media and for judges, prosecutors and police responsible for compliance with the laws. Innovative use of geo-technology to better track cases of sexual exploitation and trafficking and improve national-local coordination mechanisms are planned. Moreover, links will be forged to support protection networks in tourist and border areas with Haiti.

**PREVENT AND ADDRESS SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

*By end of December 2014, 169 States had ratified the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, representing 86 per cent of all United Nations Member States, as compared with two thirds at the time of the campaign launch in May 2010. At least 70 country offices supported government and civil society efforts to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse and exploitation, in and out of emergency contexts.*

In a number of countries, UNICEF offices supported the strengthening of national legislative frame-
works on the protection of children from sexual abuse and exploitation, including the implementation of national or sector-specific plans and strategies to address sexual violence. In Guatemala, UNICEF’s role was instrumental in gaining commitment from high-level national authorities to establish a National Committee against Child Abuse and creating a Child Protection Unit within the Ministry of Education. In Zimbabwe, UNICEF supported the Government in developing a Girls’ and Young Women’s Empowerment Framework – the first-ever national framework – to protect and contribute to the empowerment of girls and young women. UNICEF also supports the strengthening of comprehensive services, including setting up national phone Child Helplines and operationalizing and restructuring one-stop centers for victims of GBV and violence against children. In Kenya, centres were operationalized in Garissa and Turkana counties. The Turkana Wellness Centre serves 10 victims per month on average, and more than 2,100 children reached out through the national Child Helpline. In the Eastern Caribbean, as part of the Break the Silence: End Child Sexual Abuse campaign, stakeholders from the health, education, religious, sporting and finance sectors met to discuss policies and protocols to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse, leading to four country inter-sectoral plans of actions.

ARMED VIOLENCE

Across 53 countries, an estimated 5.6 million (5,628,531) children and young people were reached this past year with UNICEF-supported programmes to address armed violence.

The regional armed violence prevention and reduction programme in Latin America has led to significant country gains in armed violence policy and advocacy through contextual programming and regional coordination. Children in at least 11 countries – Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela – benefited from UNICEF-supported assistance in reducing armed violence. Increasingly, progress in reducing armed violence is being more strategically measured. For example, Brazil has an established national plan for addressing homicides: in 2014, three municipal plans on homicide reductions were devised in partnership with a specialized non-governmental organization Observatorio de Favelas. In Nicaragua, focus was placed on reintegrating youths in gangs into school or employment. Youth gangs that were still operating in Madriz and Nueva Segovia Departments have been disbanded; all six territories receiving UNICEF support since 2013 are now gang-free. In the six prioritized municipalities, 37 per cent of school counsellors gained knowledge on national legislation against weapons, children’s rights and juvenile penal justice. Furthermore, they developed their competencies in facilitating conflict resolution, using a handbook with practical exercises to prepare lesson plans and personalized guidance to students.

CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES

Multiple ministries overlap in the area of violence prevention and response – as well as civil and religious institutions – all of whom have an important role to play. There is a growing number of national governments developing a multi-sectoral response to violence, but this is still very much a work in progress. Multi-sector task forces dealing with violence against children work closely to prevent violence in schools, integrate into broader social protection programmes, or integrated services for victims of physical, emotional or sexual violence. In Madagascar, the ‘one stop centre’ established in a central public hospital assisted 8,103 child victims of violence during 2014. The absence of a cross-sectoral mechanism to address violence against children led UNICEF Macedonia to support the training of regional multi-agency teams in 12 of the 85 municipalities. UNICEF Mongolia was active in supporting the development of an integrated system of protective services for child victims of abuse and violence. Together with the National Authority for Children, Save the Children and World Vision, the first-ever national phone Child Helpline was set up, and more than 200 members of multidisciplinary teams in target communities trained on community-based child protection mechanisms. A series of school-based trainings led to more than 60 per cent of them developing school-specific child protection policies.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

UNICEF works with a range of global, regional and national partners to pursue its targets related to violence against children. UNICEF contributed to the reports of the SRSG on violence against children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on information and communication technologies (ICTs)
and violence and exploitation. UNICEF also collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union and other partners to develop Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection (elaborated further in the report). UNICEF also consolidated its partnership with ECPAT International, collaborating on the Global Study on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of children in travel and tourism and the Interagency Terminology and Semantics Project to develop guidance and agreement on concepts in relation to child sexual exploitation of children.

In 2014, more than 34 country offices engaged with religious communities and partners. In Mozambique, to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Day of Prayer and Action, UNICEF, in partnership with the Government (Ministry of Women and Social Action) and the Interfaith Council of Religions of Mozambique (COREM), prepared key messages (comunicado de púlpito) for faith-based organizations to share and engage with about 2,000 congregations. In Cambodia, a two-day consultation was organized for more than 75 Buddhist leaders from all 25 provinces and the capital to discuss the role of monks as major influencers in the community, leading to key messages being presented at the Violence against Children Initiative launch. Messages developed by representatives of the Christian and Muslim faiths were also shared at the national Day of Prayer and Action for Children, and more widely in local religious celebrations across the country during 2014.

**CHILD LABOUR**

The post-2015 development agenda includes a proposed target to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including forced labour and the recruitment and use of children as soldiers. The draft SDG for child labour commits United Nations agencies, governments and civil society to end child labour in all its forms by 2025. More than 90 per cent of Member States of the International Labour Organization (ILO) have ratified the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention No. 182 and the Minimum Age Convention No. 138. UNICEF is increasingly collaborating more closely with the ILO to accelerate reductions in child labour and to capitalize on the comparative advantages of both agencies. In 2014, UNICEF and the ILO engaged in joint promotion of the World Day against Child Labour (12 June), which showcases the importance of social protection in eliminating child labour.

In 2014, 55 country offices directly supported a combination of interventions to combat child labour, representing an increase from 49 offices in the previous year. Almost 4.5 million (4,469,081) children aged 5–17 years involved in child labour, including children working in cotton harvesting, small-scale gold mining and the cocoa industry, were specifically reached through UNICEF-supported interventions in those countries.19 Laws defining child labour and reform processes that provide governments with a mandate to ensure other contributing issues (e.g., poverty, violence and migration) are essential for effective action. In Benin, a National Policy on Child Protection was adopted, including a charter for market vendors against the economic exploitation of children. UNICEF support in the semi-arid regions in Brazil, where child labour is highly prevalent, resulted in the engagement with municipal managers and adolescents from more than 1,700 participating municipalities. More than 3,000 participants (including adolescents, social workers and managers) were trained on human rights, types of child labour, legal frameworks and efforts to promote social and behaviour change. In Burkina Faso, 20,000 vulnerable children from 40 gold mines were removed and provided with schooling, vocational and literacy training, as well as support for income-generating activities for their families. Myanmar made revisions in the child law relating to the minimum working age, the prohibition of hazardous work and the worst forms of labour, and supported training for approximately 780 employers (representatives from factories, shops and establishments) in 14 industrial zones of the Yangon Region. UNICEF also supported the development of the first Child Labour Monitoring Checklist in Myanmar – a tool for labour inspectors to identify child labour cases, which has been piloted in 31 factories, shops and establishments.

In humanitarian contexts, UNICEF targeted child labour among Syrian children affected by the crisis in the country. At any time, more than 50 registered children benefit from UNICEF’s Drop-In Centre for child labourers in the Za’atari Syrian refugee camp, a pilot project that provides specialized services for children aged 10–16 years involved in child labour. In Jordan, UNICEF also piloted a conditional cash transfer programme in communities hosting Syrian refugees for families with school-age children who are engaged in labour. The pilot project aims to pull 1,700 children from the labour market and integrate them into appropriate education.
CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES

Cross sectoral collaboration is vital to combat child labour. For example, child labour and education are inextricably linked: weak schools systems frequently translate into child labour. The need to consider the prevalence of child labour is a significant impediment to improving education systems and often not sufficiently recognized by education policymakers. Partnerships such as the Global Out-of-School Children Initiative are a key to address this trend. Launched in 2010 by UNICEF and the Institute for Statistics of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the initiative aims to accelerate efforts towards universal primary education by 2015, and integrates a push to develop context-appropriate policies and strategies for accelerating and scaling up school attendance for excluded and marginalized children, including children previously or currently engaged in child labour.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

In partnership with the ILO and the World Bank, UNICEF continues to consolidate the joint research project, Understanding Children’s Work, as a knowledge centre, source of evidence-based policy guidance and technical leader in data analysis (elaborated later in the report). The role of the private sector in eliminating child labour is also increasingly recognized as highly important, as companies and children interact on a daily basis. UNICEF Cambodia completed a mapping of the private sector to help initiate dialogue with chambers of commerce, NGOs supporting social entrepreneurship and international corporations on possible future partnerships regarding corporate social responsibility and the promotion of child rights.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

Violence is often invisible and underreported – either because it is hidden behind shame and stigma or, in some cases, not even considered to be a violation (harsh discipline or harmful practices). Lacking accurate data on the prevalence and magnitude of violence can limit effective action. For example, despite lessons learned in recent years and a growing awareness of the impact of violence, exploitation and abuse of children, only 25 countries collected and published routine administrative data on these issues in 2014. In part, the lack of data and evidence is linked to insufficient human and financial resources. Greater investment is required – both from domestic and international sources – to build an effective evidence base to address violence and determine the impact of the work in progress.

For example, despite progress, 11 per cent of the world’s children are trapped in child labour. These are typically among the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach children, making the elimination of child labour a clear equity concern. As UNICEF moves into full implementation of the Strategic Plan, it will be critical to accelerate progress by scaling up good practices and supporting a more enabling environment. In all areas of work to combat violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect, this requires a concerted push to continue making changes at the national and subnational levels: increasing national budgetary commitment; overcoming bottlenecks to develop cross-sectoral action and coordination across the labour, social welfare, education, health and law enforcement sectors; strengthening human resources and capacity; and changing social norms and attitudes.
UNICEF’s strategic aims are to work with countries to enable them to reduce the number of children in detention, and to ensure that all children coming into contact with the justice system – whether as alleged offenders, victims, witnesses or as parties to non-criminal law procedures – are better served and protected through the full application of relevant international norms and standards.\textsuperscript{19}

Interventions include promoting alternatives to deprivation of liberty and restorative justice approaches; building capacity of, among others, the police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers and social services; and providing a range of services, from legal aid and assistance to psychosocial support. UNICEF encourages the establishment of child-friendly police stations and courts, and accompanying laws, protocols and procedures that give primary consideration to a child’s right to protection and that are consistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international standards. Increasingly, UNICEF’s interventions target the welfare/social sector as part of preventive and rehabilitative efforts. In 2014, total global expenditure for interventions to support justice for children amounted to US$21.1 million.

\textbf{FIGURE 3}  
\textbf{JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN 2014 GLOBAL EXPENDITURE: US$21.1 MILLION}

\begin{itemize}
\item **53\%** Access to justice for all children
\item **47\%** Diversion programmes and other alternatives to detention of children
\end{itemize}

*The global expenditure data in Figure 3 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

\textbf{STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT: LEGISLATIVE REFORM}

Advocacy and technical assistance to improve legal frameworks is a key building block in advancing justice for children and system strengthening, and it ranges from practical guidelines to developing policies, legislation and constitutional processes. Such efforts were reported in 71 countries, with significant milestones including the adoption of at least 10 progressive laws in 2014.

In Burkina Faso, the bill on the protection of children in conflict with the law was promulgated, paving the way to scale up special jurisdictions and nomination of specialized judges for children, and banning the death penalty for children younger than 18 years old. In Ethiopia, work with the Supreme Courts contributed to the commitment to include social workers supporting children in the justice system on the government payroll. In Indonesia, the entry into force of the new juvenile justice law combined with capacity development activities has led to a decrease in the number of
children in detention by approximately 30 per cent, as well as an increase in the rate of diversion from 7 per cent in 2012 to 58 per cent in the last quarter of 2014. In Jordan, a juvenile law was promulgated, marking a significant shift from a punitive to a restorative approach, and raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 7 to 12.

**INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES**

UNICEF supported improved service provision in 61 countries in 2014, improving both the availability of the appropriate services and their accessibility – for example, via legal aid and assistance, psychological support, and child-friendly institutional and community-based capacities.

Furthermore, 86 country offices undertook a range of capacity-building actions in 2014, as 63 programme offices specifically supported work around curricula development and trainings.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are now 16 functioning juvenile courts, up from 12 in 2013: some 7,176 children gained access to specialized judges and 9,647 children (1,789 girls and 7,858 boys) were assisted by social workers. Specialized tribunals were established; 2,193 judges, lawyers and social workers were trained; and legal aid offices, mediation committees, social workers and the national police were given support. To date, 2017 national targets have been exceeded, with 11,516 cases filed and 7,561 children accessing alternatives to detention. In Egypt, 232 children benefited from legal representation in criminal cases. A random sampling of 144 children showed that 35 per cent of those detained were younger than 15 years old, and close to half were detained on begging and vagrancy grounds in violation of the Egyptian Child Law. UNICEF and partners closely monitored the case of five children sentenced to death, an illegal measure in national law, leading to new judgements for four of the five children. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF’s model for diversion of children with ‘anti-social’ behaviour, based on inter-sectoral cooperation and specialized services, was adopted by one district and under finalization in the remaining four, benefiting more than 200 children. In Viet Nam, more than 10 years of UNICEF work on child-friendly justice systems led to the establishment in 2014 of the first specialized children’s court – the Family and Juvenile Court.

**KNOWLEDGE, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AND PARTICIPATION**

There has been a slow wave of change, with notable examples emerging of increasing community awareness, participation and shifting attitudes towards alternatives to deprivation of liberty. In Ghana, a draft of the Justice for Children Policy...
was developed following broad-based consultations with children and traditional authorities (with a role in dealing with children’s offending behaviours). In India, UNICEF has been an active member of a coalition of agencies to prevent the lowering of the age of juvenility in the amendment of the Juvenile Justice Act, which has resulted in a public advocacy campaign with high visibility on the issue. In Nicaragua, UNICEF and the judiciary organized six departmental forums with community members to promote dialogue on the legal procedures for adolescents in conflict with the law. In Zambia, as part of UNICEF’s support of Child Justice Forums, draft guidelines and posters on the Application for Bond (at police/arrest level and Court Bail at trial level) were developed to reduce the number of children in detention while awaiting trial.

### CEE/CIS MULTI-COUNTRY EVALUATION OF THE IMPACT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORMS ON CHILDREN IN CONFLICT WITH THE LAW (2006–2012)

Juvenile justice policies in the CEE/CIS region generally reflect punitive and discriminatory mindsets. Conflict with the law is often the result of exclusion, and repressive responses by the justice system are regularly used in lieu of social support and integration. Violence in police and detention facilities is common, and sometimes amount to torture. Many children, after spending long periods in pre-trial detention, are released upon sentencing – which raises the question of whether detention was necessary in the first place. These combined circumstances severely jeopardize children’s chances of fully reintegrating into their families and communities.

To address these issues and align juvenile justice systems with international standards, UNICEF has actively supported juvenile justice system reforms in the region since the early 2000s. In 2013–2014, the UNICEF Regional Office, in cooperation with the European Union, mandated an independent multi-country evaluation to assess the impact of juvenile justice system reforms, focusing on 11 countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244), Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

- The evaluation established that the number of children in detention (pre- and post-trial) has decreased by almost 60 per cent between 2006 – when most of the juvenile justice reforms started in the region – and 2012.
- The number of children diverted from judicial proceedings – one of UNICEF’s main focus in the reforms – has almost doubled, meaning that these children received support outside of the justice system.

- On the other hand, the reduction of the length of pre-trial detention was rather uneven during the period, but it is also noted that this is an area where fewer resources were invested.

Disaggregated data were not available to assess to which extent all children, including the most vulnerable, have benefited from these results. However, the evaluation team considered that there is a high probability that children from vulnerable groups are disproportionally likely to be arrested and detained – therefore UNICEF’s focus on decreasing detention rates and length of detention also contributes to narrowing the equity gap in juvenile justice.

System-level changes that were consistently associated with all three results, and assessed as having played a catalyst/leverage effect, were:

- Improved legislative and policy frameworks;
- Strengthened access to adequately staffed services (especially alternatives to deprivation of liberty);
- Conducive social norms (such as those based on reasoned policy rather than punitive emotional responses).

UNICEF’s most significant contribution to the changes is associated with work in policy advice, technical assistance, enabling knowledge exchange and support to modelling/piloting initiatives (as well as the Regional Office’s role to leverage resources).

### STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Through involvement in the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group – tasked with coordinating United Nations work in this area – UNICEF consistently provided technical and advocacy materials to
support the inclusion of targets and indicators related to justice for children in the post-2015 development agenda, including emphasizing the necessity for disaggregated criminal justice data. UNICEF has also participated in a number of other inter-agency forums and technical working groups related to the Rule of Law goals and targets in the draft SDGs. In 2014, UNODC and UNICEF hosted a Regional Training Workshop in Thailand on Responding to Violence against Children in Contact with the Justice System, with members of the judiciary, police and social work from several countries (including China and Malaysia). Consequently, in China, UNICEF is working with the Supreme People’s Court to translate international instruments and good practices into the national context and deliver trainings for more justice professionals. Representatives from Malaysia are expected to roll out the training to their respective institutions and additionally serve as resource persons for other institutions.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

There remains a lack of appropriate legislative frameworks for justice for children, and it can take years of high-level advocacy to trigger change. Once a law is in place, its effective implementation requires aligned regulations and policies, adequate financial and human resources, appropriate services, and coordination with other sectors. Experiences and lessons learned to date show that unless justice for children is strategically integrated into the more general rule of law and justice-sector contexts, the pace of progress is constrained.

PROGRAMME AREA 4 – BIRTH REGISTRATION

Increasing the rate of birth registration across programme countries is one of the three main impact indicators of UNICEF’s Strategic Plan 2014–2017. UNICEF’s strategic focus mirrors the renewed global emphasis on birth registration as a fundamental building block for child protection, which has its foundation in article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This push is evidenced within the post-2015 agenda dialogue through the proposed call for a specific target (16.9) on universal legal identity through birth registration by 2030.

Current estimates suggest that the births of approximately 230 million children under the age of 5 have not been registered. Of these, about 85 million are in sub-Saharan Africa and 135 million are in Asia. Even though the global average for birth registration has risen to around 65 per cent, there continue to be notable pockets of exclusion in many countries and those that remain unregistered tend to come overwhelmingly from marginalized communities.

Greater focus is being placed on strengthening the enabling environment to increase registration rates, as well as interventions to increase the supply (improved services) and demand (greater public access). A specific strategic focus of birth registration is on leveraging existing regional initiatives to strengthen the capacity of national civil registration systems. In addition, the use of innovations is being explored, including ICT to reach the majority of children (as in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia), as well as those who are excluded (as in Latin America and CEE).

OF THE 155 PROGRAMME COUNTRIES REPORTING BIRTH REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES IN 2014, RESULTS INCLUDE:

- Registration rates varied considerably, from highs of 100 per cent (Costa Rica, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay), to as low as 5 per cent (Ethiopia) and 6 per cent (Malawi).
- 73 per cent (114) have a system of birth registration that was free and universal, an increase from the 107 that reported so in 2013.
- Just over 50 per cent (78) continue to work on varying components to strengthen their birth registration system.
- 31 per cent (48) have laws that are partially in line with international norms and standards.
- 45 per cent (70) report that data on registration rates and trends are incomplete or unavailable, highlighting the importance of sustained efforts to improve the data management capacity of civil registration systems.

In 2014, expenditure for global level interventions on birth registration amounted to US$16.8 million.
STRENGTHENING THE ENABLING ENVIRONMENT – LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

There are now 114 countries providing free and universal birth registration services, compared with 107 in 2013.

Approximately 35 per cent of UNICEF-supported countries in 2014 engaged in birth registration activities, with a primary focus around legal and policy reform and the development of civic registration and vital statistic systems.

Developing effective legislation to improve civic registration and birth registration is seen as a major bottleneck to improving birth registration rates. A large number of countries have established a sound legal framework for birth registration, and many others have set in motion a process of legislative reform. However, the passage of such legislation takes time to be fully implemented. As such, country offices reported in 2014 a shift in many countries’ focus towards also prioritizing interventions aimed at increasing capacity building and demand-side interventions. This shift in focus is also indicative of the progress being made as part of the Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (APAI-CRVS) programme, where governments are working towards implementation of action plans, such as sub-Saharan Africa. In a number of countries, governments recognize that an immediate major barrier to registration is access to services, so they focus on this as an entry point to increase rates, while addressing legislative reform in the longer term. The discriminatory practice of withholding the issuance of birth certificates pending the full payment of any maternity hospital fees was abandoned in Antigua and Barbuda. In Ethiopia, UNICEF supported a national civil registration agency focused on strengthening federal and regional registration bodies, resulting in the adoption of regulations by five out of nine regional states and the establishment of a regional coordination agency. In Fiji, ongoing advocacy contributed to the Government’s inclusion of a civil registration budget line in the 2014 national budget. Ghana’s Statistical Services began its CRVS system reform, with a comprehensive assessment of the system. In Madagascar, an equity-focused birth registration strategy was finalized and integrated in the 2015 national budget and public investment plan (2015–2018).

INCREASING ACCESS TO SERVICES: SERVICE DELIVERY AND INTEGRATED APPROACHES

UNICEF programming contributed to the registration of the births of approximately 14.6 million children, in part through improvements in the quality of services and service delivery mechanisms, including integrated approaches combining birth registration with the health, education and social service sectors.

In Côte d’Ivoire civil registration services were strengthened for children born during the 10-year conflict, bringing the total number of beneficiaries registered since 2012 to 886,006 (50 per cent of the national target). Sixty-four per cent of these children were reached directly as a result of UNICEF support. In Mozambique, about 320,000 children were registered through regular birth registration activities, including 193,081 children under 5 during the Child Health Week. At the end of 2014, a 60 per cent birth registration rate was reported, a 12 per cent increase from rates reported in 2011. In Nigeria, focus was placed on establishing collaboration between the education sector and the National Population Commission, resulting in the integration of birth registration activities into the work of head teachers. In Thailand, a two-year National Health Security Office project to implement a national hospital-based online birth registration system ended in early 2014, resulting in 73 per cent of the targeted 892 hospitals adopting the system. Given high national registration rates (99.4 per cent in 2012), focus is now shifting to reach the most vulnerable children, such as children under 5 born in Thailand to parents from Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic or Myanmar.

KNOWLEDGE, BEHAVIOUR CHANGE AND PARTICIPATION

Social and cultural beliefs also play a part in whether a child is registered, as in many places, parents and caregivers do not always value the importance of registering a child’s birth. As part of an integrated approach to increase the demand for services taken in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, 5,284 newborns received their birth registration at health centres and 20,842 birth registration certificates were delivered during campaigns conducted by the mobile brigades. UNICEF national and local-level support, particularly with the indigenous
Guaraní population, led to 42 municipalities being certified as a ‘Zero Undocumented Municipality’ in eight departments. In Gambia, a combination of actions, including birth registration campaigns and integrating birth registration into national child immunization services, saw birth registration rates make significant gains for children under 5: 72 per cent in 2013, compared with 52.5 per cent in 2010. In Kyrgyzstan, awareness-raising drives among local communities resulted in the referral for registration and certification of more than 6,000 previously ‘invisible’ children identified by social workers and community leaders.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

Despite heavy demands placed on UNICEF to respond to the emergency in Mali, birth registration remained a flagship activity. In collaboration with the National Civil Registration Directorate, 82 new civil registration officers in two regions were trained in data collection of birth and other civil registration events. UNICEF supported the operationalization of 160 civil registration services through the provision of registration and computer kits in two regions: in 2014, almost 2,000 children who had ‘missed out’ on earlier registration

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**NIGERIA: MULTI-SECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS TO INCREASE BIRTH REGISTRATION RATES**

In Nigeria, about 70 per cent of the 5 million children born annually are not being registered at birth. To increase registration rates, UNICEF has supported a range of interventions in the country that focus on supply and demand issues, addressing the capacity of actors within the national body responsible for Civil Registration and Vital Statistics – the National Population Commission, or NPoPC – and fostering partnerships across the health and education sectors to increase outreach potential, as well as through the introduction of new technology.

#### With the health sector

Partnership with the health sector is critical to capture additional children under 1 year, and strong links forged following the UNICEF-supported 2012 National Council of Health decision to officially integrate birth registration into health services. Most recently, formalized frameworks and plans of action have been adopted between NPoPC and the State Primary Health Care Development Agencies/Ministries of Health in 30 out of 36 states plus the Federal Capital Territory. Nearly 4,000 health workers were trained in 2014 to provide registration services, bringing the total of trained registrars in health facilities to more than 10,000 in 24 states.

#### With the education sector

Given that initiatives still need to be pursued to ‘mop up’ registration, 2014 also focused on establishing collaboration between the education sector and NPoPC. As a result, in November 2014, the National Council on Education endorsed the integration of birth registration activities into the work of head teachers for school-age children. NPoPC, with UNICEF support, will begin training head teachers to register children next year, aiming to replicate the success achieved in the health sector.

#### Use of new technology

RapidSMS mobile technology is now in operation at more than 4,000 registration points, enabling real-time data on birth registration to be collected and analysed centrally and at state level. State-level monitors now issue monthly scorecards to highlight poorly performing states and local government areas, enabling remedial action to be taken. In addition, the system assists registration centers and NPoPC to track stock levels of birth certificates to avoid stock-outs.

#### Integration in wider reform processes

UNICEF ensured that birth registration was a key component of both the assessment and National Strategic Plan of Action for CRVS systems that has been developed for Nigeria. In addition, UNICEF approached the National Identity Management Commission to ensure that the ongoing development of an identification system takes into consideration the role of birth registration and birth certificates.

#### Sustained support has led to increases in both access to, and demand for, birth registration

In 2014, 3,254,207 children under 5 years (1,576,437 female and 1,677,770 male) were registered, including 2,019,145 children under the age of 1 year (980,710 female and 1,038,435 male). This represents an estimated rise in percentage coverage of under 1 year from 41.5 per cent in 2011 to 52.03 per cent, and an increase for children under 5 from 29.8 per cent in 2013 to 35.60 per cent.
because of the impact of the crisis received their birth registration certificates. In Zambia, as part of a decentralization strategy, 152 health workers were trained on birth registration procedures, and 303 community health workers were trained on birth registration and as community facilitators. In 2014, a total of 22,883 children were registered, with just under half receiving birth certificates. This is in contrast to the 3,359 children registered in 2012 in the same three provinces before the services were decentralized through health facilities.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

To leverage existing regional initiatives to strengthen the capacity of national civil registration systems, a range of partnership actions are of note in 2014. In particular, UNICEF played a key role in the Global CRVS Group, and engaged with the Rule of Law Coordination and Resources Group to ensure that targets and goals related to universal birth registration were included in the draft SDGs. UNICEF continued to work within the Core Group of the Africa Programme on APAI-CRVS Programme, providing support to 11 countries developing national CRVS reform plans. The Brisbane Accord Group partnership – a regional grouping of intergovernmental and academic institutions tasked with the coordination, facilitation and support of investments to CRVS reform in the Asia Pacific Region – supported three national assessments in Fiji (cause of death, legal frameworks and registration practices). In Malaysia, a two-day conference organized by UNICEF and UNHCR subsequently led to key agencies exploring strategies to strengthen the birth registration system in Malaysia, including establishing a multi-agency technical working group. UNICEF is also exploring more coordinated cross-sectoral partnerships, including health, statistics, planning and development partners, to ensure that birth registration is looked at broadly.

In Nepal, collaborative efforts of the Government, UNICEF, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank resulted in the rolling out of a comprehensive management information system to 12 districts linking social protection with CRVS to better administer the social protection schemes. In Uganda, collaboration with the European Union, UNICEF and the United Nations Joint Programme on Population at a number of strategic levels contributed to an increase in the estimated number of children under 5 whose births are registered, from approximately 30 per cent in 2011 to 60 per cent by end of 2014. In addition, 67.4 per cent of registered children were issued with birth certificates, including a number of South Sudanese refugee children born in Uganda.

CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES

As international momentum and support for improved CRVS grows, coordination among a range of actors becomes increasingly complex. Ensuring that investment in all areas of CRVS – for example, in the registration and recording of marriages and divorces, and in the causes of death as well as birth – remains a challenge, as donor interest remains focused on improving birth registration rates. While ICT solutions to support birth registration provide exciting opportunities, lessons learned to date also show that these types of innovative approaches present growing challenges with regard to confidentiality and integrity of data, and in ensuring that private-sector investment and innovation remain within the oversight of civil registration authorities.

In response, and based on lessons learned emerging through programming, UNICEF, in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, plans to publish guidelines for the use of ICT to support birth registration, to provide a set of normative recommendations in this area. These guidelines were developed during an expert consultation led by UNICEF, in Bern, Switzerland, in 2014.
PROGRAMME AREA 5 – CHILD PROTECTION AND EMERGENCIES

The Strategic Plan 2014–2017 mainstreams emergency response, reinforcing the shift towards more strategic responses, with results-based monitoring for both short-term and longer-term impacts. This includes rapid assessment to determine priority areas for life-saving protection interventions and analysis to identify entry points for more sustainable longer-term child protection system strengthening. The scale of humanitarian crises was unprecedented in 2014, requiring urgent and coordinated action to bring relief to children affected by ongoing conflict and new and recurring natural disasters. Despite the tremendous challenges, there has been relief for millions of children affected by conflict and crisis as UNICEF, working together with partners, governments, communities and families, responds to the violations and risks that children face.

In 2014, global expenditure for child protection in emergencies interventions amounted to US$132.6 million. A large proportion of expenditure is channelled as part of psychosocial support, as it provides an entry point for community-based, integrated programming with the potential to reach significant numbers of children and their families and caregivers, thereby contributing to creating a safe and protective environment for children. The 2014 Global Evaluation on Child Protection in Emergencies specifically noted that psychosocial programming is a key strength, and that “UNICEF has focused on outreach to hard-to-reach groups (the poorest people, ethnic and religious minorities, isolated populations, people with disabilities), and mobile outreach has been effective in increasing coverage.”

Nearly 230 million children live in countries and areas affected by armed conflicts, and at risk and vulnerable to many child protection concerns, including sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian space, abductions and kidnappings, recruitment and the Ebola virus disease.

• As many as 15 million children were caught up in violent conflicts around the world, including in the Central African Republic, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine.

• Millions more children are impacted directly as a result of protracted crisis in countries like Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, the Sudan and Yemen.

• UNICEF responded to the protection needs of children in 73 countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters, including six large-scale Level 3 emergencies in the Central African Republic, Ebola-affected countries (Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone), Iraq, the Philippines, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic.

• UNICEF was mandated to coordinate the child protection response to Ebola by the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response and the national Ebola response centers. The provision of psychosocial support to children in communities affected by Ebola in 2014 reached a total of more than 36,000 children across all three countries.

• More than 15,000 children lost one or both parents or primary caregivers to Ebola and were provided with support so that they could be placed with family, extended family or in some other form of permanent care in their communities.
COORDINATION, INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

UNICEF continues to fulfil its humanitarian cluster responsibilities for the Child Protection and GBV Areas of Responsibility in emergencies, both globally and at country level, as well as leading or co-leading the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Reference Group, mine-risk education coordination, the Paris Principles Steering Group on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups and the MRM country task forces. UNICEF also provides leadership in the Child Protection Working Group Task Forces, including the Capacity Building Task Force, the Assessment and Measurement Task Force, the Child-Friendly Spaces Task Force, and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children. This included the development of inter-agency training materials on case management; child-friendly spaces; child protection rapid assessment; child protection in emergencies coordination and child protection face-to-face trainings. In its role as co-lead of the global GBV Area of Responsibility, UNICEF leads the GBV Guidelines Task Team (overseeing the revision process for the 2005 Inter-Agency Steering Committee GBV Guidelines) and contributes to the Learning, Research and Advocacy Task Teams. UNICEF also collaborated with Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Office of the SRSG for CAAC agencies to launch Train, Act, Protect: A new standard in child protection training for military peacekeepers, which ensures that all United Nations peacekeepers are trained on child rights and child protection in pre-deployment. UNICEF is also a member of the steering committee for UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict and collaborates closely with the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The drafting of the Child Protection in Emergencies Post Graduate Diploma curriculum was finalized, in collaboration with the Child Protection Working Group and Save the Children, and students were selected to commence the course in January 2015 at the University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. A five-year external evaluation of the inter-agency GBV Information Management System was completed in 2014, providing evidence, good
practices, lessons learned and recommendations regarding to what extent, how, why, when and in what contexts the system has reached and/or could reach its intended objectives. The partnership (UNICEF, UNFPA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Rescue Committee) continued to facilitate the implementation of the system tools in humanitarian contexts in 12 countries (Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Nepal, the Niger, the Philippines, South Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania), providing in-country technical support.

**PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SPACES**

*About 3.1 million children received psychosocial support and access to child-friendly spaces.*

UNICEF worked closely with various partners to provide a ‘comprehensive package’ of interventions to reach vulnerable children, including children in Iraq, Jordan, the Philippines, Rwanda, the State of Palestine and the Syrian Arab Republic. This included alternative education for out-of-school children (also home-based and IT-supported) and life-skills training for all 10–24-year-olds. In Jordan, a total of 210,000 girls and boys benefited from psychosocial support. More than 23,000 of these children, including 2,500 unaccompanied and separated children, also received multi-sectoral child protection and GBV-related case management services, and access to 180 child and adolescent-friendly spaces nationwide. In Lebanon, 346,810 children and 131,986 caregivers accessed psychosocial support services thanks to UNICEF’s programmes. UNICEF Lebanon reached refugees and vulnerable children through a number of gateways, including public schools, informal settlements, Primary Healthcare Centres, Social Development Centres, community centres, Palestinian refugee camps and UNHCR registration points. UNICEF worked closely with the Ministry of Social Affairs to enhance and extend services through 26 Social Development Centres. Moreover, Child Protection Committees, composed of both host communities and refugees, also play a central role in the outreach activities and in child rights monitoring. In response to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic, nearly 300,000 children were reached within the country, and an additional 645,000 were reached in neighbouring countries.

**UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN**

*In 2014, more than 33,000 unaccompanied and separated children in 22 crisis-affected countries were placed in alternative care, and almost 12,000 were reunited with families or caregivers.*

The Central African Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic all were supported to strengthen case management systems, including the establishment of child protection information management systems and use of standardized global tools for family tracing and reunification of unaccompanied and separated children. In the Central African Republic, 539 unaccompanied and separated children at increased risk were reunited with their families. In South Sudan, nearly 5,500 such children received family tracing and reunification services, including community-based alternative care. Among those, 48 children who escaped from the Lord’s Resistance Army received interim care services and psychosocial support while waiting for cross-border family tracing and reunification by the International Committee of the Red Cross.
RELEASE AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAMMES FOR CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH ARMED FORCES/GROUPS

UNICEF provided technical support to release and reintegration programmes for children associated with armed forces/groups in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Myanmar, the Philippines, Somalia and South Sudan.

In all 10,204 children were released by armed forces/armed groups, and 8,390 children received reintegration assistance, including psychosocial support, access to education, skills training and livelihoods. In addition, a Letter of Agreement was signed between the Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission, UNICEF and the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative to mainstream child protection considerations and build capacity for child protection in the Commission’s peacekeeping missions.

In 2014, the armed conflict in northeastern Nigeria saw a spike in violence, including the displacement of more than 800,000 children and the mass abduction by Boko Haram of 276 school girls from Chibok and numerous other abductions and attacks on schools. UNICEF has scaled up its operations across the four affected countries – Cameroon, Chad, the Niger and Nigeria – to provide support to the hundreds of thousands of children who have been affected by the crisis. Under UNICEF’s leadership, an MRM on grave violations against children

PROTECTING CHILDREN AffECTED BY EBOLA VIRUS DISEASE IN SIERRA LEONE

Gains made to protect children in Sierra Leone were drastically set back in multiple and overlapping ways because of the worst-ever Ebola outbreak in early 2014. Before the outbreak, approximately 50 per cent of children lived with both parents, 25 per cent lived with one parent and 25 per cent were not living with either parent. The Ebola virus disease put considerable strain on an already fragmented child protection system, undermining all essential service delivery, family and community structures.

UNICEF, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, led the implementation of coordinated efforts to mitigate the impact on children. Working as part of the National Ebola Response, a robust child protection response plan was initiated, providing critical psychosocial support for distressed and stigmatized families and children; and reuniting children with their families or placing them in appropriate alternative care. Especially crucial were the services put in place to support children in ‘contact’ with Ebola virus disease who required observation and surveillance for 21 days, and who had no suitable caregiver to provide care and support during the required period.

By the end of 2014, encouraging results were emerging:

- Through the Family Tracing and Reunification network, 14,768 children (7,410 girls and 7,356 boys) were registered, of whom 7,938 had lost one or both parents.
- A total of 674 children (56 per cent) out of 1,214 had received Family Tracing and Reunification services in all 14 districts. Ultimately, all children were reunited with their families or with caregivers.
- Seventeen operational interim care centers were providing care and support to vulnerable children without caregivers in 11 districts.
- Psychosocial support was provided to 11,594 children and caregivers (5,802 children and 5,792 adults).
- Basic welfare items were provided to 5,986 people (4,084 children and 1,902 caregivers).
- 195 children without family-based care were placed in the centres awaiting family reunion; 57 children received care in operational interim care centres.

Challenges remain, however, and work is still ongoing. The next phase of Ebola response, set out in the Second Phase National Strategy Response Plan (January–June 2015), will focus on providing child protection services for all Ebola-affected children and families. It will also build up the institutional capacity of front-line workers (social and para-social workforce) to respond not only to the needs of Ebola-affected children, families and communities but also to serve the needs of other vulnerable children and families. There is a need for continued improvements to the data management system, strengthened coordination, monitoring, and supportive supervision for child protection programmes, as well as ensuring child protection is mainstreamed into the long-term national response.
during armed conflict has also been rolled out in Nigeria. Since the abduction of the girls, UNICEF has trained professionals in counselling, who in turn are training 600 community volunteers on psychosocial interventions for children in the affected areas, reaching more than 60,000 displaced children with counselling and psychosocial support to help children cope with emotional distress.

**MINE ACTION**

Increasingly, children disproportionately rank the highest among civilian casualties from landmines/explosive remnants of war. The percentage of child casualties among civilians has increased from 42 per cent in 2009 to 47 per cent in 2012. Eighty-four per cent of child casualties where the sex was known were boys, and the percentage in certain countries is even higher.

UNICEF remains the lead United Nations agency working on mine action in a number of priority countries like Chad, Eritrea, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Senegal, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. UNICEF is also committed to the goals of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and is currently supporting 23 mine-affected countries to protect children and their families from landmines and all explosive remnants of war. In 2014 alone, UNICEF responded on an emergency basis to new landmines/explosive remnants of war threats during flooding in Cambodia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in the context of new hostilities in Gaza (State of Palestine), Kachin (Myanmar) and Ukraine.

In Eritrea, 315,000 schoolchildren were reached with integrated mine risk education safety information. UNICEF supported the Iraqi Kurdistan Mine Action Agency and Missan Mine Action Centre in implementing the trainings. Forty-four government and NGO staff were trained to increase local capacity for future community volunteer-based mine risk education. In Sri Lanka, mine risk education and child injury prevention education resulted in a 15 per cent increase in community reporting on explosive devices compared with 2013; a 41 per cent reduction in incidents; and a 38 per cent reduction in casualities. In addition, 280,000 community members, including 28,412 schoolchildren, benefited from mine risk education. In the Syrian Arab Republic, 800 teachers provided mine risk education messages to more than 272,700 children, of whom 50 per cent were girls; and an additional 45,000 schoolchildren in hard-to-reach areas were reached.

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE**

Around 432,757 children, primarily girls and women, received some form of multi-sectoral support services (health, psychosocial, livelihood support/economic strengthening and justice) in relation to different forms of GBV, exploitation and abuse across 35 countries.

More than 425,768 women, girls, men and boys were reached with information about GBV prevention and response.

Some 53,500 girls and women received dignity kits, consisting of basic necessities that displaced women and girls require to maintain hygiene, dignity and respect in their daily lives (e.g., sanitary towels, underwear, basic clothing, soap) as well as other items aiming at reinforcing their protection (such as a flashlights and whistles).

Countries and regions receiving direct support for GBV prevention and response included the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Nepal, the Niger, Lebanon, Jordan, the Philippines, Somalia and South Sudan. Remote support was provided to the Latin America and Caribbean region and the Syrian Arab Republic. Additionally, GBV in Emergencies Talent Pool Members were deployed to the Central African Republic, Chad and South Sudan, and additional human resource/capacity-building assistance was provided to South Sudan.

In the Central African Republic, approximately 49,165 girls, boys and women survivors of GBV were reached by local partners, including both national and international NGOs, with a range of direct support services including medical support (1,805), psychological support (4,178), legal aid (773) and income-generating activities (200). UNICEF’s direct support included provision of training and other capacity-building activities. Through discussion sessions and distribution of referral pathway information for literate and non-literate populations by implementing partners, volunteers and community focal points, particularly during key events such as International Women’s Day, the Day of the Africa Child and the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence, nearly 81,000 persons were reached with messages on how and where to access services for sexual violence. Of the 4,178 reported cases of sexual violence, 687 were incidents of rape against children, of whom 90 per cent were girls.
In Lebanon, 55,295 children and women at risk of GBV accessed safe spaces that are managed by UNICEF’s implementing partners. In these spaces, children and women are provided with information and referrals for services and case management, including medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, access to justice and safe shelter. Specific activities provided in the safe space centres include emotional support groups, information on sexual and reproductive health and rights, economic empowerment and rehabilitation/reintegration. An additional 142,733 persons were reached with sensitization and awareness-raising for GBV prevention in emergencies through radio and printed messaging.

In South Sudan, 50,383 girls, boys and women were reached via radio and print with key messages on GBV prevention and response and support services, and 2,000 girls and women of reproductive age were provided with hygiene/dignity kits. More than 5,000 vulnerable households, mainly female-headed families, received solar lanterns to increase the protection of girls and women at night, including when accessing water and sanitation facilities. UNICEF Sudan installed 35 solar streetlights in Malakal Protection of Civilian sites, lighting 18 of 26 latrines where girls and women feel most at risk. At least 70 per cent of the population in Malakal benefited from lights installed by UNICEF to improve access to latrines at night.

CHILD PROTECTION MONITORING AND REPORTING IN ARMED CONFLICT

In 2014, UNICEF steered the launch of the MRM website and the three MRM publications; the MRM Guidelines, the MRM Field Manual, and the MRM Good Practices. Under the umbrella of UN Action, through the GBV Information Management System Steering Committee, UNICEF helped to develop a guidance note on the intersections between the system and the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements. UNICEF also contributed to the development and release of the Guidance Note on Security Council Resolution 1998 to protect schools and hospitals from attack.

UNICEF also conducted high-level joint advocacy missions with the Office of the SRSG on CAAC to Somalia and South Sudan, and contributed to the first-ever Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict in the African Union. MRM technical support was given to Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. UNICEF acts as co-chair to MRM Country Task Forces on Monitoring and Reporting in 15 countries/regions (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, the region affected by the Lord’s Resistance Army, Myanmar, Nigeria, the Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and neighboring countries, and Yemen), and contributed to monitoring and reporting of grave violations against children in other ‘situations of concern’.

In Afghanistan, systematic monitoring, advocacy and inter-agency coordination of issues took place in all 34 provinces. In August 2014, the Government

CHILDREN, NOT SOLDIERS CAMPAIGN

Launched in March 2014 jointly by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF, the campaign seeks to put an end by 2016 to the recruitment and use of children by government security forces.

To date, six of the seven governments currently listed in the annexes of the Secretary-General’s Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict as recruiting and using children in armed conflict have signed and are implementing Action Plans to end and prevent child recruitment and use so that all government security forces become and remain ‘child-free’ (Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen). The United Nations and the Government of the Sudan are negotiating an Action Plan.

Progress to date:

- Afghanistan endorsed a 15-point road map to implement the Action Plan;
- Chad’s Armed Forces were delisted from the annexes of the 2014 report;
- The Democratic Republic of the Congo appointed a Presidential Adviser on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment;
- In Myanmar, 376 children were released: 70 per cent of the total 593 under-age recruits were released from the Tatmadaw to date;
- South Sudan re-committed to implement the Action Plan; and
- An Action Plan was signed by the Government of Yemen and the United Nations.
of Afghanistan formally endorsed a compliance roadmap to prevent and end child recruitment and use of children in the National Security Forces. In Chad, efforts to accelerate implementation of the Action Plan (and its subsequent delisting) were aided by UNICEF-supported capacity building of the National Army (including a training of trainers for 30 military Commanders), the Gendarmes and the police. 2014 was a devastating year for children in South Sudan: grave violations against children were recorded at the highest level in the first three months of 2014 than in any of the previous five years. A joint mission of the SRSG for CAAC and UNICEF took place in June 2014, resulting in the formal re-commitment of the Government to the 2012 Action Plan, and commitments to issue a Presidential Decree criminalizing recruitment and use of children; ending attacks on schools and hospitals; vacating schools occupied by government forces; and ending the killing and maiming of and sexual violence against children. The mission also led to a Memorandum of Understanding for the release of some 2,500 children.

**CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

Multiple emergencies in 2014 affected millions of children and stretched the capacity of international and national partners responding to natural disasters, armed conflicts and the Ebola crisis. Lessons learned have shown that it is imperative that UNICEF and partners effectively and rapidly provide coordinated responses to mitigate the impact on children at risk. The sector urgently requires greater investment in financial and human resources at all levels to support child protection response in emergencies, including in complex and high-threat environments. In response, the first initiatives to address capacity building are under development: a Child Protection in Emergencies Post Graduate Diploma at the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa and a Graduate-Level Child Protection Certificate programme from Harvard University’s School of Public Health in the United States. Additional educational programmes are expanding to academic institutions in other countries. UNICEF’s new e-learning platform, Agora, has a child protection module, the first resource pack on child protection planning and monitoring and evaluation is nearing finalization, and a revision of the Guidelines for Humanitarian Contexts of the Inter-agency Steering Committee on GBV was completed. Strengthened monitoring and evaluation in areas such as mental health and psychosocial support and GBV are also needed. A stronger evidence base is needed to inform child protection programmes and achieve sustainable results, including for early recovery and preparedness. In situations of armed conflict, the prevention and response to grave violations against children requires strong advocacy, effective partnerships and coordination, and programme response that is grounded in the affected communities to respond to the immediate protection needs and also address longer-term vulnerabilities and inequities. Similarly, the ongoing challenge to improved data collection remains a bottleneck, as is accessibility to critical locations.

**PROGRAMME AREA 6 – STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES**

A key thrust of the Strategic Plan 2014–2017 is the importance of addressing violence that occurs in the home, specifically against children in the early years. However, rather than tackling actions aimed only at ending violence, UNICEF has strategically shifted towards a broader framework of action that includes strengthening the ability of parents and communities to care for their children in ways that promote their well-being and potential across the life cycle, and that reduce and mitigate against neglect – from early childhood through adolescence. Years of advocacy efforts, including the 2014 Girl Summit and successive resolutions in the United Nations General Assembly and Human Rights Council have brought about a significant momentum for the inclusion of a target related to the elimination of harmful practices, including FGM/C and child marriage, under proposed Goal 5 of the draft SDGs. If confirmed, these targets would create a global thrust to drive progress on the ground over the next 15 years. In 2014, the total global expenditure for interventions to support the strengthening of families and communities amounted to US$49.9 million.
FIGURE 5
STRENGTHENING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES 2014 GLOBAL EXPENDITURE: US$49.9 MILLION

*The global expenditure data in Figure 5 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.

POSITIVE PARENTING

During 2014, UNICEF supported at least 24 countries to improve positive parenting practices.

The Strategic Plan makes specific reference to the importance of addressing violence that occurs in the home, specifically against children in the early years. UNICEF has moved towards a broader approach that aims to strengthen the ability of parents and communities to care for their children in ways that promote their well-being and potential. This is being done by integrating services into the lives of families either through regular home visits or at community-based centres, by nurses, social workers and other trained professionals. There is an increase in the number of countries implementing parenting programmes to strengthen the protective role of families, although the overall number remains relatively low (i.e., 50 countries). Applying lessons from the growing body of evidence on the effectiveness of such programmes in relation to the reduction of violent discipline in the home, additional efforts need to be made so that adequate resources are allocated to such programmes and that additional analysis is undertaken to assess the cost benefit of integrating child protection modules into existing parenting programmes for an integrated approach.

In 2014, efforts focused on promoting positive parenting skills and integrating social welfare services, and social protection programmes that prevent and reduce vulnerability and/or exclusion. In Belarus, efforts to protect children, including in early childhood, resulted in the implementation of a joint UNICEF-UNFPA nationwide campaign aiming to prevent and counteract violence against children, and increase knowledge of parents and caregivers on the issue. Parents were provided with an information kit on violence against children, which included recommendations on how to care for children, including those under the age of 3, without using violent methods of discipline. In the Republic of Moldova, UNICEF supported a new parenting strategy, coupled with complementary actions such as a communication strategy. The Ministry of Education and the Child Rights Information Centre trained cross-sectoral teams in almost 1,000 communities; initial results are show-
ing some positive changes to parenting practices in the home. In Papua New Guinea, a small-scale parenting programme with faith communities was initiated in targeted communities in Western Highlands to improve parenting competencies and reduce violence against children. As a result of the training, faith leaders conducted awareness-raising campaigns and established child protection committees for monitoring and reporting on child rights violations. In the United Republic of Tanzania, more than 110 Community Development Officers were trained as trainers on the violence against children communication toolkit, which has context-relevant messages for children (in particular those 7–13 years old), parents/caregivers, community leaders and mass media. The trainers will support local government authorities’ training of frontline workers in 10 UNICEF-supported districts. The target is to train 2,400 parents/caregivers per district annually.

ALTERNATIVE CARE

Fifty-eight countries reported having an Alternative Care Policy in line with the 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children; 121 coun-

‘LET’S GROW UP TOGETHER: WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS’ – STRENGTHENING POSITIVE PARENTING PRACTICES IN BULGARIA

According to a nationally representative survey (March 2012) almost 7 out of 10 parents or caregivers in Bulgaria approve of the use of ‘minimal violence’ against children (spanking, smacking and/or pulling of the ear), and there is a general lack of understanding of the importance of stimulating the healthy development of young children (through, for example, verbal interaction, joint activities, shared reading). Moreover, these issues are not yet fully addressed in national policies and programmes.

In response, UNICEF Bulgaria, in partnership with NGOs, community organizations (chitalishite), municipalities and kindergartens (schools), initiated a programme between 2012 and 2014 – ‘Let’s grow up together: Workshops for parents’ – aimed at increasing knowledge about the development of their children in the early years.

An experienced team of 50 group leaders (psychologists, social workers, early childhood development specialists and teachers) were trained to implement a series of workshops. More than 700 parents of young children (0–4 years of age) in more than 20 towns in Bulgaria benefited from the programme, and there is evidence emerging that participants strengthened their capacities for parenting in the best interest of the child as a result. Through a series of interactive workshops, parents improved their understanding of early childhood as a critical period in life, and learned about the social, emotional and cognitive development of children and their role in supporting healthy child development. They also strengthened their attitudes and skills for building positive and nurturing relationships with children.

An assessment in 2014 revealed the following results emerging over the past two years:

At the start of the programme, 27 per cent of parents had smacked/spanked their child either every day or several times during the seven days prior to the training (21 per cent did so several times a week, 3 per cent several times a day, and 3 per cent once a day).

By the end of the programme this had been reduced by almost half to 14 per cent of parents either smacking or spanking the child either every day or several times (12 per cent either smacking or spanking their child several times a week, 1 per cent every day, and 1 per cent several times a day).

Overall, the number of parents who did not smack/spank their children increased from 73 per cent to 86 per cent as a result of the programme interventions.

However, when it came to measuring changes in attitude and practice related to the use of ‘minimal violence’, if the child was exposed to a danger (for example, if s/he runs to the street), the results were less positive. In part this is a result of the deeply entrenched cultural acceptance of such actions within Bulgarian society. Lessons learned will be used to extend the programme over the next two years to at least 15 additional municipalities.
tries report having estimated data on children in residential care; and 94 countries provided estimated data on children in foster care. UNICEF supported at least 38 countries to strengthen aspects of alternative care work.

In 2014 in Burundi, more than 25,000 people (including 10,000 children) participated in community debates on the role of parents in protecting children and on the prevention of neglect, abandonment and placement of children in residential care centres. Coupled with related activities, these actions led to the number of children in residential care centres dropping by 405 (from 3,487) in 2014.

In Ghana, new regulations on adoption and foster care were finalized, preparations were made to establish a Central Authority on Adoption, and a request was tabled to approve Ghana’s accession to the 1993 Hague Convention on Inter-country Adoption. In Indonesia, advocacy efforts were targeted to the Parliament and the Ministry of Social Affairs to adopt a new law on family-based care regulating the large number of children sent to, and living in, institutions in Indonesia; and strong alliances were established with civil society to launch a national public movement for changes in legislation.

**CARE AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES**

Children with disabilities are disproportionately affected by placement in ‘institutions’, often leading to being placed in adult care facilities. At least 16 UNICEF-supported countries worked on issues related to children with disabilities.

The Viet Nam National Assembly approved the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2014. UNICEF also supported the implementation of special protection measures, including guidelines on case management for children with disabilities and guidelines on respite daycare models. In Abkhazia, Georgia, UNICEF, in partnership with World Vision, supported three Child Development Centres to provide services to 246 children living with disabilities, while their parents were provided with services (early life-skills development and education, speech therapy, physiotherapy and psychological counselling). Child Development Centres received capacity-building support, and training was provided to 53 rural nurses and six doctors for early identification of disabilities. Fifteen psychologists and local NGO leaders were also trained in positive parenting methodologies.

**PROMOTE SAFE MIGRATION AND PREVENT AND ADDRESS CHILD TRAFFICKING**

UNICEF also works with communities to change norms and practices that exacerbate children’s vulnerabilities to trafficking. A total of 24 countries worked on topics relating to migration and trafficking in 2014.

UNICEF works so that children entering into regular or irregular migration flows – whether accompanied or independently – are protected. Unaccompanied migrant children are particularly vulnerable to exploitation, and states have special responsibilities to guarantee their protection and best interests. In 2014, UNICEF co-published with UNHCR guidance for states on managing best interest determinations of unaccompanied children, and worked with national governments in Central America and Africa to strengthen protective mechanisms for unaccompanied migrant children. While recent research has yielded information on the nature of child trafficking, little is known about its magnitude. The ILO’s 2002 estimation of 1.2 million children being trafficked each year remains the global reference. To reduce vulnerabilities that make children susceptible to trafficking, UNICEF assists governments in strengthening laws, policies and services, including legislative review and reforms, establishing minimum labour standards, and supporting access to education.

In response to the call of an emergency by the Government of Honduras, UNICEF supported a coordinated response in partnership with the International Organization for Migration, UNHCR, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Pan American Health Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the International Committee of the Red Cross and NGOs to support the reception and family community reintegration for families and unaccompanied children returning to the country, including updating migration protocols and developing shelters and infrastructure. In Yemen, UNICEF supported the drafting of the Anti-Human Trafficking law, including child-sensitive provisions, which currently awaits final review and enactment by Parliament. In Zambia, UNICEF collaborated in the One UN programme aiming to mitigate the vulnerability and increase the protection of children and other persons of concern at high risk of trafficking, abuse and exploitation due to migration through upgrading relevant
laws and establishing enforcement mechanisms. UNICEF also contributed to the institutional development for identification, prevention, protection and response to cases of unaccompanied minors, child victims of trafficking, and asylum seekers.

**PREVENT AND ADDRESS CHILD MARRIAGE**

Approximately 38 UNICEF-supported countries reported working on issues to address child marriage in 2014, with focused programming taking place in 12 countries. Some 18 countries with medium to high prevalence of child marriage now have national strategies or plans on child marriage, 5 of them costed.

Most recent global data suggest that 34 per cent of women were married or in a union by the age of 18. Girls who marry before they turn 18 are less likely to remain in school and are more likely to experience domestic violence. A major global focus in 2014 was on identifying expanded service delivery mechanisms (a more complete global picture will be available in 2015). Across the 12 focus countries of the child marriage initiative, there was a greater emphasis in 2014 on planning, consolidating partnerships and integrating child marriage across existing and new interventions that have potential to reach scale.

National plans are most frequently drawn from evidence that shows that girls’ schooling, community mobilization, life skills, cash and other incentives, as well as media outreach, are some of the most successful strategies for addressing child marriage. To this end, UNICEF is supporting multi-sectoral packages that incorporate child marriage-specific interventions, including grass-roots work with girls on life skills and adolescent empowerment, or community conversations for family and community engagement. UNICEF supports strengthening systems that deploy interventions such as girls’ schooling and social protection benefits that directly and indirectly contribute to the elimination of child marriage.

UNICEF has worked to rectify child marriage legal frameworks that remain uneven in their protection of girls. Even where the legal minimum age to marry is 18, lack of adherence to the law and lack of birth registrations preclude protective measures from being taken. Ethiopia, Nepal and Zambia all took steps to put in place a national plan of action to eliminate child marriage in 2014. Bangladesh briefly proposed lowering the age of marriage, but withdrew the proposal due to lobbying from civil society and United Nations agencies. As part of the drive to end child marriage across 12 countries, US$45 million is committed, with additional commitments expected in 2016.

**PREVENT AND ADDRESS FGM/C**

In 2014, 21 programme countries reported interventions around FGM/C, with 17 countries providing specific programming as part of the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme.

In 2014, programmes addressing FGM/C and child marriage reached at least 5.6 million people ranging from youths to adult women and men, religious leaders, and traditional and elected leaders, through community-based social norms change activities including peer-to-peer dialogues, empowering education and skills building.

More than 130 million girls and women have experienced FGM/C in 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East where the practice is most common. UNFPA and UNICEF jointly support governments and other partners to strengthen legislation outlawing the practice and to carry out activities enabling communities to make a coordinated and collective choice to abandon FGM/C.

To date, 26 out of the 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East with high FGM/C prevalence rates have enacted a law or issued a constitutional decree against the practice. Eight countries (Burkina Faso, Egypt, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, the Sudan, Uganda, and Yemen) reported cases of law enforcement in 2014. The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C enabled about 23,000 girls and women to receive services in 2014. More than 6,000 service delivery points across 17 countries had at least one person who had received training from the Joint Programme on prevention, protection or care related to FGM/C. In 2014, 1,007 communities across 13 countries publicly declared their abandonment of FGM/C through support from the Joint Programme. Youth campaigns in the Gambia, Kenya, Senegal and Somalia mobilized more than 20,000 youth to call for an end the practice. Some 50,000 people in 17 countries received empowering education, including on the harms of FGM/C, and more than 16,000 articles appeared in local media in 17 countries addressing harmful practices.

A growing awareness of both the impact of harmful practices but, more importantly, the recogni-
tion that there are effective programme responses under way has led to increased donor commitment. The UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on FGM/C now has commitments equaling its four-year budget of US$54 million. The UNICEF-United Kingdom Girl Summit in July 2014 saw more than 47 governments sign the Girl Summit charter calling for an end to FGM/C. More than 20 governments signed commitments to take concrete actions to end FGM/C in their countries.

SUPPORT TO CHILD-SENSITIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION TO PREVENT/REDUCE VULNERABILITY AND/OR EXCLUSION

In terms of the inter-connections between child protection and child-friendly social protection, UNICEF supported specific child-sensitive interventions in 13 countries.31

Child-sensitive social protection mechanisms are known to address a full range of risk factors and underlying vulnerabilities in the lives of children and their families, and provide a gateway to other related services, such as parenting support or health services. Many children are placed in alternative care due to poverty; and social protection mechanisms such as cash transfers can help to prevent resulting consequences such as family separation. In Indonesia, the Government completed an assessment of its Social Welfare Programme for Children (known as PKSA) – a conditional cash transfer programme that combines cash transfers to families with intensive guidance and care through social workers and child-care institutions, which facilitate access to social services and promote family-based care. The findings provided valuable evidence to guide the next steps of the social welfare system component of the child protection system. In Viet Nam, an inter-ministerial circular was approved in October 2014, which provides detailed instructions on implementing Decree 136 on social assistance for social protection beneficiaries, including vulnerable children, accompanied by a new software programme aimed at improving information and reporting data on social protection beneficiaries.

CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the capacity of government at all levels, UNICEF focuses on training and technical assistance to reform government institutions and improve service provision; strengthening supply chain management; piloting models for scaling up, with attention to quality assurance; and using national and local systems and strengthening national and subnational data collection, analysis and use.

In terms of the migration crisis in Honduras, the Return to Happiness toolkit was adapted and more than 300 volunteers from the Municipal Programmes for Children and Adolescents were trained to implement community activities. More than 3,000 children from the ‘push communities’ were reached by the volunteers in one month. Together with partners from the United Nations and civil society, UNICEF also contributed to capacity-building initiatives to strengthen the protection of migrant children and adolescents, by providing its technical expertise and training 150 Mexican consular officers in the United States and Mexico. The Council of Churches in Jamaica promoted the use of alternative methods of discipline by equipping 63 facilitators (8 men and 55 women) to be parent education facilitators, who in turn trained 400 parents (58 fathers and 342 mothers) in rural Jamaican communities. A post-workshop survey revealed that many parents had begun to utilize alternative methods and a non-violent approach to child-rearing. In Rwanda, UNICEF supported capacity building of the newly introduced Rwandan social welfare workforce as part of the Tubarerere Mu Muryango (‘Let’s raise children in families!’) programme. As of the end of 2014, a total of 48 social workers and psychologists were in place to support child-care reform: 27 (56 per cent of the required workforce) have graduated from an eight-month pre-service and in-service innovative programme (conducted in partnership with Tulane University and the Hope and Homes for Children NGO).

CROSS-SECTORAL LINKAGES

Strengthening cross-sectoral linkages are a vital strategy for improved programme implementation and greater coordination. For example, Benin, through the development and adoption of the National Policy on Child Protection, has defined a clear and integrated vision with strategic areas of intervention specific to child protection. This document is the result of a national participatory process involving leaders and multi-sectoral stakeholders (health, education, social protection, communication and children). In the Republic of Moldova, a national inter-sectoral mechanism was established to refer cases of violence and neglect between the police and social welfare, health and education sectors. National roll-
out of the mechanism started with UNICEF support to five districts and has currently reached 13 out of 37 districts with support of NGO partners.

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION**

UNICEF leads in catalysing and supporting strategic partnerships and social movements for the realization of the rights of children, integrating child rights into other agendas and building capacity through partnerships with national and local governments, civil society, academic institutions and the private sector. At the global level, UNICEF co-led the Secretariat for a new United Nations General Assembly resolution to eliminate FGM/C, which was adopted in December 2014 without a vote. A first-ever substantive resolution on ending child, early and forced marriages was adopted by the Assembly. UNICEF’s actions to eliminate FGM/C and child marriage continue to be pursued in close cooperation with UNFPA.

The FGM/C work in 17 countries and beyond includes joint planning and common advocacy governments. In 2014, UNFPA and UNICEF embarked on a joint inception phase on child marriage, after which a decision will be taken on whether it becomes a joint programme. As part of the child marriage inception phase, 12 countries are currently conducting updated data collection on child marriage, mapping of existing stakeholders and interventions, and a clear road map for efforts to eliminate it. Resources have also been provided to UN Women and WHO to cooperate on revised policy guidance on FGM/C in the areas of women’s empowerment and management of health complications.

Collaboration with the African Union Commission for Social Affairs and the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children has also increased due to the two advocacy efforts on FGM/C and child marriage. In relation to alternative care, UNICEF collaborates with the Better Care Network, the leading global knowledge broker on evidence relating to the alternative care of children. Examples of collaboration include the development of a tool to measure the implementation of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children at national level, and the Better Care, Better Volunteering Initiative, which addresses issues of inappropriate – and at times unsafe – volunteering in child-care facilities.

**CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

Issues around harmful practices have received vital international attention and resources in recent years. UNICEF, along with UNFPA, continues to lead the largest multilateral global efforts with the objective of accelerating progress toward the elimination of FGM/C and child marriage equally at global policy levels and at national and community levels. National governments are increasingly committed through political and policy agreements, but face severe capacity constraints to deliver on commitments. For example, ministries in charge of children or gender face major weaknesses. A multi-sectoral response that involves schools, service delivery platforms and other large-scale systems that reach the most marginalized and at-risk populations must be better leveraged to deliver prevention information and provide response services related to harmful practices and their consequences. Community-based platforms including education dialogues and social mobilization to stimulate and support social norms change, while an effective and important strategy, are time- and resource-intensive and not easily scaleable. UNICEF is working alongside 12 countries in order to assess the most strategic and catalytic areas of investment during the Strategic Plan period to make change happen faster.

Changing cultural and traditional practices requires patience and sensitivity. For example, some countries have indicated they cannot address child marriage directly, but can only do so through teenage pregnancy or adolescent girls’ education. The Ebola crisis has slowed efforts in Guinea and Sierra Leone to eliminate FGM/C. Both countries have suspended national planning processes and repurposed community programming for Ebola response. Sierra Leone is currently trying to build on a ministerial decree to halt FGM/C during the Ebola crisis for longer-term abandonment. In relation to alternative care, challenges remain in the slow pace of change to policies, both in terms of putting into place preventive services and providing a range of alternative care options to best meet the needs of the individual child. While interest in foster care options is increasing, and promising beginnings are being made, this approach especially suffers from a lack of acceptability by local communities. In many countries, governments continue to struggle with clarity about the number of children in alternative care, and especially also in relation to the registration and monitoring of alternative care facilities. Progress is being made, however; for example, the inclusion of strategic monitoring questions in the Strategic Plan on the numbers of
Children in residential care and foster care will help UNICEF country offices advocate for an awareness of the numbers of affected children, which in turn will support advocacy for reform.

**PROGRAMME AREA 7 – DATA AND CHILD PROTECTION**

Strengthening the evidence base around child protection is a major priority in the Strategic Plan 2014–2017. UNICEF is committed to strengthening research and ensuring that robust and regularly collected and disaggregated data on violence and exploitation of children become part of the data collection efforts of all countries, including linking with public health and other related and relevant surveillance systems (such as injury surveillance). In addition to large-scale household surveys, UNICEF supports specific studies or research to complement data from national household surveys and administrative data. Implicit in this approach is the need to build human resource capacities in the areas of planning, evidence generation, monitoring and evaluation.

In 2014, global expenditure to support interventions to collect and analyse data and support the routine administrative data collection and analysis in countries amounted to US$6 million. Total expenditures for this programme area are likely higher, as evidence generation, data and research are likely to be subsumed into other programme area budgets and areas of interventions. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that investments in data collection and monitoring and evaluation are significant bottlenecks, impeding reporting on results.

**FIGURE 6**

**DATA AND CHILD PROTECTION 2014 GLOBAL EXPENDITURE: US$6 MILLION**

*The global expenditure data in Figure 6 exclude funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational and other costs.*

**EVIDENCE GENERATION AND EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY DIALOGUE AND ADVOCACY**

UNICEF works with academic institutions, other United Nations agencies, multilateral bodies and international and regional NGOs to act as a knowledge leader in the sector. This past year saw a growing body of evaluated work across the key strategic programme intervention areas, which provide critical evidence for determining the scale and scope of child protection violations, identifying vulnerable groups, ascertaining risk factors and protective assets and mechanisms, informing policy and programming, and ensuring accountability. The move to a systems approach in child protection, consistent with similar shifts in the health and education sectors implies a need for a stronger evidence base to define clearly the specific vulnerabilities that the system seeks to address.
GLOBAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Across the sector, there is a growing interest in developing robust evidence-based theories of change, backed by child protection research, monitoring and evaluation. The Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (CPMERG), an inter-agency group of international NGOs, NGOs, academics, data collection experts and United Nations agencies, continued to develop as a coordinated force to strengthen monitoring and evaluation and data collection across the sector. The CPMERG Technical Working Group on Data Collection on Violence against Children, chaired by UNICEF, was established to provide guidance in this area and to produce outputs that can assist countries and partners in their efforts to gather data that are both reliable and useful and obtained in an ethically sensitive manner. With these objectives in mind, the Working Group undertook a review of quantitative studies on violence against children and published ‘Measuring Violence against Children: Inventory and assessment of quantitative studies’, which provides an overview of some recent data-collection activities that will feed into the development of guidelines for the collection of data on violence against children at global, regional and national levels.

The global child protection financial benchmarks initiative is an example of UNICEF’s continued knowledge leadership in systems development. Launched in 2014, the planned global tool aims to provide estimated public expenditure levels for child protection, and is intended to be used as a baseline for data by which countries can track progress of child protection budgeting. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UNICEF Child Protection Specialists from across the region come together to agree on strategies to fill the regional data gaps in line with UNICEF Strategic Plan 2014–2017, resulting in the need to develop a key set of common regional indicators for a region-specific child protection scorecard.

2014 also marked important milestones in terms of developing a growing body of knowledge detailing what works to address violence against children, alongside examples of effective programmatic interventions. The two flagship publications on violence against children were released to coincide with the launch of phase II of UNICEF’s #ENDviolence against children initiative. To date, there has been widespread media coverage from major news outlets, with 98 articles in target media publications in 31 countries the week of its launch, and almost 18,000 mentions of the report appeared across social media.

SNAPSHOT OF DATA-RELATED ACTIVITIES ON CHILD PROTECTION IN 2014:

- Three data animation videos on FGM/C and child marriage.
- A four-page statistical country profile on FGM/C in Indonesia.

All these outputs are available on UNICEF’s newly revamped website at <data.unicef.org/child-protection/overview>, as well as in UNICEF’s global databases for child protection.
To build on the national violence against children surveys and related data-collection efforts that have taken place in Africa, Asia and Latin America, ‘From Research to Action: Advancing prevention and response to violence against children’ (May 2014), a global consultation hosted by the Government of Swaziland, brought together 200 participants from 20 countries, leading to the charting of a plan of action to strengthen both the data and programme aspects of the work. An evidence review on effective strategies for the prevention and response to child sexual abuse and exploitation, in and out of emergency contexts, was finalized, and UNICEF, with Drexel University, completed the systematic review of programme communication approaches to prevent violence against children, to better understand ‘what works’ in this area. Meanwhile, the first stage of a four-country (Italy, Peru, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe) research study on the drivers of violence against children made critical progress.

A number of studies conducted in partnership with the ILO and the World Bank as part of the Understanding Children’s Work project were undertaken, aiming to fill key knowledge gaps and promote policy dialogue on child labour. This included multi-country studies offering new insights into the agriculture work of children and youth and into transition from school to work and into child labour among adolescents. These thematic studies were complemented by country-level inter-agency reports in nine countries and regional inter-agency reports in four regions aimed at building the general evidence base. The impact of cash transfers programmes was a particular focus (Lesotho, Mexico and the Philippines), given that they have become a critical social protection instrument in a growing number of countries.

In advance of the Girl Summit 2014 held in the United Kingdom, UNICEF published revised estimates on FGM/C and child marriage prevalence and projections on future potential numbers of girls and women affected, which is critical for planning and targeting in the post-2015 environment. UNFPA and UNICEF developed a detailed results-based management plan for FGM/C with a common global results framework and indicators for annual and semi-annual reporting. A DevInfo Monitoring database has been developed, and 17 targeted countries conducted baseline exercises. UNICEF has invested staff time and resources to establish a stronger results-based management system for the FGM/C interventions following a joint evaluation recommendation last year. Throughout 2014, some 20 countries received support on monitoring and evaluation related to FGM/C. The process will result in national monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress on the elimination of harmful practices in by 2015. UNICEF, UNFPA and donors have agreed on a draft results framework for efforts to eliminate child marriage. The draft framework is currently being refined as part of an inception phase and will be revised as baseline studies are conducted.

The 2014 ‘Evaluation of UNICEF Programmes to Protect Children in Emergencies’ provides a solid basis to improve accountabilities and better inform programming. It charts a practical course of action to improve referral and case management for delivery of services to the most vulnerable children in emergencies and to strengthen systems for child protection, and recommends developing a monitoring and evaluation framework to inform advocacy and programme response in areas such as mental health and psychosocial support and GBV in emergencies. The two-year revision process of the Inter-agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action: Reducing risk, promoting resilience and aiding recovery (GBV Guidelines) concluded in 2014 sets forth global standards on GBV risk mitigation across all humanitarian response sectors.

UNICEF facilitated a review of the implementation of the Inter-agency Steering Committee Guidelines on MHPSs in humanitarian settings, to inform global standards for psychosocial support in emergencies. The IASC Reference Group on mental health and psychosocial support developed a monitoring and evaluation framework. UNICEF supported an evaluation into the effectiveness of child-friendly spaces through the global Child Protection Working Group. As part of the shift in expanding child-friendly schools towards a sustainable systems-based approach to psychosocial support, a child-friendly schools monitoring and evaluation toolkit was also produced.

UNICEF supported the establishment of a regional inter-agency mechanism to track and trace more than 30,000 unaccompanied and separated children in South Sudan and countries of asylum (Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda), ensuring complementarity of national information management systems. Similar cross-border systems were set up to support more than 1,200 child migrants of Ethiopian origin from Yemen with repatriation and reintegration services. In addition, a multi-country and multi-agency process was instituted to ensure
The laws and policies governing the gathering and use of data differ widely across regions and countries, particularly when it comes to data on child protection issues. The primary responsibility for the collection and analysis of data can lie with a broad array of ministries and statutory bodies such as National Statistical Offices. Building on the example of work in the health and education sector, a number of countries have begun work on developing Child Protection Management Information Systems, and increasing the availability of disaggregated child protection data.

While the support being provided to governments to strengthen and mainstream the collection of critical child protection indicators into all aspects of the national planning process is a critical long-term goal for UNICEF and other child rights advocates, the existing systems that cover health, education and justice services also provide a rich vein of data on child protection that, for the large part, remain untapped or under-utilized. As part of an overall emphasis on inter-operability that takes a much broader view of a country’s child protection ‘system’ and the assets at its disposal, UNICEF has begun to look at means of using existing decentralized data collection systems to better protect children. A major part of this work will require the mapping of data systems and information flows that differ significantly across countries and regions.

One important dimension of work that directly complements the heavy investment in advocacy and social media campaigns is the need to develop means of tracking the impact of these efforts. The Strategic Plan 2014-2017 aims – for the first time – to track the increase in reporting of incidences of violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect at the country level. Critical to the success in this approach is the need to increase support to the development of child helplines, tracking reports to the police and other designated authorities such as health and social work facilities and its impact on the access and quality of services. It assumes that under-reporting is a significant problem, and the indicator acts as a proxy on the demand side (awareness and willingness to report) and supply side (effectiveness of the system response).

Nigeria – the 2014 Child Protection System Strengthening Mapping and Assessment and Federal Capital Territory Public Finance Management Budget and Expenditure Review is aiding the development of a social welfare services costing framework.

Republic of Moldova – the drafting of a set of national justice for children indicators is now recognized cross-institutionally.

Uruguay – improved data management systems now enable better coordination between services (often at the police level), better follow-up of individual cases, protection of personal information, analysis by key indicators, and disaggregation – for example, by age, gender, geographic locations – whether for crimes committed against children or by children.

Dominican Republic – findings from a joint UNICEF and Electoral Board 2013 evaluation led to the implementation of a pilot project to improve birth registration in the civil registry offices in the four major hospitals. Early results show rates have increased from 40.3 per cent to 57.4 per cent in the first three months.

Namibia – in the first three month of its use, a database for case reporting, referral and management of protection cases housed with the NGO Childline/Lifeline, but linked to state-provided services, saw 1 in 10 calls resulting in the opening of a case – of which 60 per cent involved women.

Maldives – the Child Protection Database was linked up with the Police Information Management System to enable easy transfer of data between the databases. Now centrally hosted at the National Centre for Information Technology, the databases can provide disaggregated data by age, gender, geographic locations and patterns of crimes.

Romania – A UNICEF-supported Knowledge, Attitude and Practice study on parenting for young children resulted in the development of an integrated communication campaign on violence against children, reaching millions through the broadcasting of three awareness raising and fundraising TV spots (24.3 million views) and radio spots (36.5 million times heard).

Bangladesh – a recently launched pilot Child Helpline, an emergency telecommunication and outreach service for children who are in need of care and protection, has received calls from around 1,098 children, resulting in the rescue of 512 children (259 girls and 253 boys) through the mobile team and offered basic services; safety in Child Helpline homes for 241 children (214 girls and 37 boys); reintegration with their families for 363 children (202 girls and 161 boys); and referral of 149 children (57 girls and 92 boys) to appropriate services as a measure of last resort.

Malawi – a mobile phone-based monitoring system in 85 Community Victim Support Units supports reporting, monitoring and follow-up of abuse cases. In 2014, the number of reports sent through the system has risen from 1,124 to 3,541.
cross-border child protection dimensions are embedded in emergency preparedness plans for the Great Lakes region, which resulted in all countries updating plans and making use of agreed tools.

**MONITORING OF RESULTS FOR EQUITY SYSTEM (MORES)**

In 2014, UNICEF worked with partners to further strengthen application of MoRES in the area of child protection to identify and track key bottlenecks and barriers to results for the most disadvantaged children and improve evidence-based programming.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, progress in addressing bottlenecks to child-care reform is assessed every six months to one year in collaboration with partners, including government and civil society organizations, in order to inform any necessary adjustments to programming. The development and roll-out of a case management system in 2015–2016 will provide improved data on the appropriate handling of cases, which will further inform child-care reform efforts.

In India, a tracking tool to measure progress related to interventions on child marriage has been developed. This is an innovative element, as it is one of the first attempts to apply the MoRES framework to measuring changes in child marriage and its drivers. Implementation of the tool will occur in 2015. In addition, a study has been concluded on the effectiveness of child protection management information systems and the recommendations will be followed up at state and central levels to make quality improvements in data management and use. The recommendation to have a district-level tracking tool for implementation of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme has already been initiated in a few states.

In October 2014, a regional workshop on Child Protection and MoRES built capacity of staff from 10 country offices (Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the Sudan, Tunisia and Yemen) in the Middle East and North Africa, with all countries developing road maps for integrating the MoRES approach in child protection programming with partners in 2015.

Efforts are being made to strengthen human resources in planning and monitoring and evaluation, and UNICEF is seeing a growing number of dedicated staff or consultants emerging. For instance, in the South Asia region, UNICEF now has a monitoring and evaluation specialist who is able to more closely work with country offices to strengthen the overall quality of results monitoring. This has included providing support to the Nepal County Office in the piloting of a sub-national analysis model for child protection data, based on MoRES principles. Additional analysis was also conducted on the alignment of country, regional and global priorities in the region.

**CONSTRAINTS AND CHALLENGES**

The lack of a broad consensus on the importance of and approach to the systematic collection of indicators continues to be the single-biggest obstacle to improving the evidence base for child protection. The fact that there continues to be a debate about whether to include many critical indicators related to human security in the post-2015 framework further illustrates the challenge. For example, the Strategic Plan notes a reduction of the homicide rate for children as a major priority for UNICEF, using data collected by the UNODC. However, the UNODC definition of homicide is in fact quite restrictive and is limited to the ‘intentional killing of others’, whereas the majority of deaths due to abuse, exploitation and neglect that would be of interest to child protection advocates would not fall under this definition. This problem is further compounded when it comes to the recording of violent injury data, which varies dramatically across countries, making it difficult if not impossible for meaningful global aggregation of data and statistics. As noted previously, while the inclusion of violence modules in the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) and Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS), along with stand-alone internationally comparable surveys, represent a critical step in improving the evidence base and has provided us with much-needed prevalence data, there is still tremendous amounts of work required to strengthen the scope and quality of programme monitoring and expanding research for evidence generation. If there is to be genuine change, it is critical that countries (and UNICEF) commit to investing in systems and processes that will allow governments and partners to identify the critical bottlenecks and, more importantly, demonstrate the effectiveness and impact of programme interventions through well-developed (and increasingly internationally comparable) indicators and frameworks.
KEY CROSS-CUTTING INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

GENDER EQUALITY

To emphasize the empowerment of girls and women and address the gender-related needs of girls, boys, fathers, mothers and communities, UNICEF identifies and leverages positive cross-sectoral synergies and linkages such as ending child marriage. UNICEF focuses on increasing access to services and opportunities by women and girls and their inclusion and participation in all facets of life. Emphasis is placed on collecting and using sex-disaggregated and other gender-related data. UNICEF promotes gender-sensitive interventions as a core programmatic priority and, to the extent possible, all relevant policies, programmes and activities mainstream gender equality.

Child marriage is a targeted priority action area for the UNICEF Gender Action Plan (presented to the Board in June 2014) and FGM/C is among the areas of gender-specific programming accounted for in the plan’s gender mainstreaming component. Six countries (Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Yemen and Zambia) have developed draft gender strategies to complement their work to eliminate child marriage. The area of child marriage has progressed rapidly, with 2014 bringing increased international attention, resources and nation-

IMPROVING MONITORING AND EVALUATION THROUGH DISCRETIONARY FUNDING TO SUPPORT PROGRAMMES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO VIOLENCE

As part of the #ENDviolence against children initiative, 32 countries across all seven regions received discretionary funding to support programmes to prevent and respond to violence. Apart from having a proposal that met the programmatic criteria, as part of an effort to routinize programme monitoring and evaluation, results monitoring and reporting and to improve the quality of programme monitoring, receipt of the funds was conditional on development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the work.

Headquarters and regional office colleagues worked in partnership with recipient country offices to support the development of the frameworks, which were aligned with the MoRES determinants framework. The funds were used to help track results across a range of programmatic interventions.

For example:

• Funds in Jordan supported an online monitoring and evaluation system that measures violence at the school level on a monthly basis as part of the Ma’an (safe schools) project. Data collected show a reduction in violence rates and an increase in the number of participating schools collecting monthly data. Children reporting violence dropped from 35 per cent for verbal violence and 22 per cent for physical violence during the 2012–2013 school year to 25 per cent verbal violence and 16 per cent physical violence in 2013–2014.

• In Romania, funds contributed to strengthening efforts to identify children at risk of or exposed to violence. To date: 2,810 vulnerable children, along with their parents and caregivers, have been identified, of which: 1,267 children have been exposed to violence and 954 children have been identified as at risk of neglect – they, together with their parents and caregivers, have been provided with information and counseling services by social workers and/or community health nurses. Also in Romania, the funds contributed towards awareness and prevention of child sexual abuse, advocacy and awareness raising through the use of social media platforms (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube).

• Changes in social norms, however; remain difficult to capture (in part due to the limited time frame for reporting of results). Though it is still in the early days, countries are showing a commitment to and value of rigorous monitoring linked to the MoRES determinant framework reflecting on its utility in programme design and also allowing for course corrections during the lifetime of the project. New partnerships are also emerging, such as with advertising firms that can provide coverage data or media outlets (i.e., numbers of people reached). A number of countries have attempted to take the monitoring efforts a step further, for example by developing the concept of an ‘engaged user’ – i.e., someone who takes an affirmative step beyond simply receiving a message. This represents an important development in understanding and tracking the impact of advocacy efforts.
al commitments to addressing the issue in more than 30 countries. In the seven months through December, there has been significant progress in the implementation of the Gender Action Plan with regard to building capacity, utilizing resources and pursuing programmatic results, particularly those related to targeted priorities. Programmatic work at the field level has advanced on all four targeted gender priorities – including ending child marriage – with three fourths of UNICEF-supported country programmes adopting at least one targeted priority as a core part of their country programme. FG-M/C programmes are also tracking disaggregated numbers in terms of participants in community dialogues and human rights education programmes, and an indicator on the number of girls and women receiving services related to FGM/C has also been included in the results framework.

Gender analysis also plays a part in justice for children. Most detained children are boys: in 2014, it is estimated that girls accounted for less than 10 per cent of detained children. On the other hand, because the number of girls that are in conflict with the law and detained is significantly less than boys, their vulnerability is heightened, as they are often placed in women’s prisons rather than separate detention facilities. Rather, girls are more likely to be in contact with justice systems as victims of violence. Programmes evolve to adapt to gender equality dynamics. In the Sudan, since 2007, Family and Child Protection Units have been set up in police stations in 18 states, providing multiple services in one place, including psychosocial support, social work services, legal and medical aid and forensic investigation. In 2014, more than 11,224 children (7,888 boys and 3,336 girls) who were offenders, witnesses and victims of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect benefited directly from child-friendly services. In 2013, there were 3,749 sexual violence cases reported to the Khartoum Unit. A key milestone this year is the decision to upgrade the Khartoum Unit to a women’s desk, thus paving way for major changes to support women in other states, especially those affected by displacement and armed conflicts.

Zimbabwe illustrates both a gender and an equity perspective. When it became apparent that children with disabilities were having problems accessing justice due to a lack of specialized services, UNICEF provided financial and technical support to a partnership between a local NGO and the Judicial Service Commission. Between January and October 2014, 166 children with disabilities benefited from specialized services and more efficient procedures. This partnership is producing positive attitudinal change: courts have started employing interpreters with sign-language skills, and the police seek professional services as soon as a child with disabilities is identified as a survivor, witness or alleged offender.

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION

Two long-standing and proven methodologies to support development and learning are South-South cooperation, in which countries support one another to learn from experience, and triangular cooperation, in which South-South engagement is supported or facilitated by a multilateral agency or donor. These methodologies are expected to become increasingly cost-effective through the use of ICTs. South-South and triangular cooperation cuts across much work in child protection, encompassing approaches to partnerships for leveraging results (encompassing, among others, regional political bodies, NGOs and faith-based organizations) and capacity building.

UNICEF Kenya supported the Ministry of Development and Planning to undertake an innovations study tour to Uganda to explore options for designing a more versatile and dynamic real-time system for budget tracking and accountability. The report proposed the establishment of a collaborative team to develop an enhanced real-time system to be modelled initially in a small number of counties in 2015. In Afghanistan, UNICEF arranged for newly recruited social work lecturers to visit the Indian Tata Institute of Social Sciences to learn about curriculum development and improving the protective environment for children, women and families. UNICEF Ecuador facilitated the participation of Brazil’s Director of Alternative Care Services in Ecuador’s Third International Congress on Adoption. In Timor-Leste, as a follow-up to the development of the family welfare system policy, UNICEF supported a study mission to Malaysia for representatives from different line ministries to observe good practices in public financial management, including outcome-based budgeting. This enabled the delegation from Timor-Leste to support the alignment of budget allocations with the strategic development plan 2011–2030 – the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States – and the five-year development programme 2012–2017. UNICEF Tunisia supported the Government in a visit to Georgia to observe the deinstitutionalization process, and a similar exchange was carried out with Myanmar government representatives visiting Cambodia.
Twenty programme countries organized exchanges related to juvenile justice reform. An inter-ministerial delegation from Timor-Leste visited New Zealand to learn from good practices in juvenile and restorative justice, which informed the development of a National Action Plan on Juvenile Justice and the review and revision of the juvenile justice legislation. South-South cooperation resulted in the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan using a modified Turkish model to set up child-friendly courtrooms. As part of the regional road map of the APAI-CRVS strategy across Africa, member states value the importance of cross-fertilization of learning and experience. Key highlights in 2014 were an exchange visit between Kenya and Uganda and the provision of technical support to the Government of South Sudan by the Government of Uganda on ITC in birth registration. In the Republic of Moldova, to improve social protection for vulnerable families with children, UNICEF facilitated South-South cooperation with Lithuania, resulting in a Cooperation Agreement between the respective social welfare ministries. The collaboration is particularly aimed at systemic changes for more effective social assistance delivery.

**INNOVATION AND INNOVATIVE APPROACHES**

Innovation generates important opportunities to advance progress towards results for children. UNICEF works to identify promising innovations and support partners to adopt, adapt and scale up the most useful and promising approaches. At the global level, UNICEF commenced an initiative to develop financial benchmarks for child protection that will act as a global tool to estimate the required level of public expenditure for child protection. This will provide valuable baseline data for countries by which to track progress of child protection budgeting.

With ICT becoming a more and more integrated part of children’s lives and online protection getting increased attention both at the global and country level, UNICEF has continued to intensify its work with national governments and private-sector partners in a number of countries to develop new ways for children to seek information on services, report violence and abuse and collect, monitor and share data on violence. In September 2014, UNICEF and the International Telecommunication Union launched a set of ‘Guidelines for Industry on Child Online Protection’. Developed with partners including GSMA (Groupe Speciale Mobile Association, a global association of mobile operators and related companies), Microsoft, Vodafone, Sony, the Internet Watch Foundation, UNODC, Interpol and ECPAT International, they provide recommendations for industry, including one to develop processes for handling of child sexual abuse content. The Guidelines have been used in Colombia and Paraguay, for example, to start a dialogue among government line ministries, law enforcement, technology companies, helplines and other partners, on strategies for collaboration to protect children in the online environment.

In Sri Lanka, UNICEF supports the Attorney General’s Department and the University of Colombo to develop an innovative Web-based case tracking system to track long pre-trial delays and the backlog of child abuse cases. The system will also allow for timely follow-up with the police, judicial medical officers, government analysts and other officials.

The modernization and computerization of systems for birth registration and the introduction of mobile technology and RapidSMS to reach vulnerable population groups and children continued to be an important trend in UNICEF-supported work on birth registration, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In December, 2014 UNICEF co-hosted a meeting with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Anne Frank Fonds on ICT to support birth registration in Bern, Switzerland, which led to a commitment to develop guidance and standards for national civil registration authorities in engaging with ICT providers and provide a risk analysis for introducing ICT into the birth registration process.

In 2014, a partnership, facilitated through UNICEF between the Ghana Birth and Death Registry and the telephone operator Tigo/Millicom led to preparations to launch a pilot initiative to use SMS technology to capture birth registration data in districts with particularly low registration rates and in some hospitals in urban areas. This is the first step towards migration from a paper-based, manual system to a more effective electronic platform for data generation and storage. In Jharkhand State, India, disaggregated factsheets and JharStats – a unique databank of major sectors with technical support from UNICEF – were developed to support the development of the state’s annual development plans. In Jamaica, the National Registration System strengthened its capacity and developed strategies for increasing birth registration through the use of ICTs. Almost 53 per cent of the 157 municipal regis-
In the country, the registration offices have now automated their birth registration systems, including 20.3 per cent that are connected online to the central database (covering 53 per cent of the country's population). In Nigeria, RapidSMS mobile technology is now in operation at more than 4,000 registration points, enabling real-time data on birth registration to be collected and analysed centrally and at state level. In addition, the system assists registration centres and National Population Commission (NPoPC) to track stock levels of birth certificates to avoid stock-outs.

The Information Management and Innovation to Protect Children in Emergencies project – Protection Related Information Management for Emergency Response Operations, or PRIMERO – is currently nearing the end of phase one. It is a ‘next generation’ software application that securely and safely collects, stores, manages and enables data-share for protection-related incident monitoring and case management. The application will enable the integration of existing IMS into a harmonized platform while maintaining security and confidentiality, and allow data exchanges between the Child Protection Information Management System, GBV Information Management System and the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism for Grave Violations against Children Information Management System to improve coordinated referral to access services. By providing a platform for secure and confidential sharing of data and information for case management, PRIMERO seeks to address the most urgent risks and vulnerabilities of children and women in situations of emergency, and ultimately to decrease their vulnerability by linking them with the services they require and by strengthening systems to protect children from the risks and difficulties they face in the midst of an emergency.

REVENUE

UNICEF is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. Regular resources are unearmarked, unrestricted funds. The overwhelming majority of these funds are allocated to country programmes on the basis of under-5 mortality rates; gross national income per capita; and child population, which ensures that most resources are spent in the least developed countries. In turn, each country programme invests its share of regular resources in response to the specific context and development priorities of the country concerned. UNICEF revenue also comes from earmarked or other resources, which include, among others, pooled funding modalities such as thematic funding for UNICEF Strategic Plan outcome and cross-cutting areas. Other resources are restricted to a particular programme, geographic area or strategic priority, or to fund emergency response.

Despite a 5 per cent increase in 2014 to US$1,326 million, regular resource contributions have continued to decline as a share of overall revenue since the turn of the new millennium, from 50 per cent to just over 25 per cent. As we look to the post-2015 agenda, being ‘Fit for Purpose’ to deliver on the draft SDGs and aligned UNICEF Strategic Plan, flexible and predictable other resources are needed to complement a sound level of regular resources. It is only with more flexible resources that UNICEF can:

• maintain its independence, neutrality and role as a trusted partner, with adequate and highly skilled capacity at country level, for country-driven, innovative and efficient programming;
• achieve key results for all country programmes of cooperation; and
• respond quickly and flexibly to changing circumstances, including sudden-onset emergencies, allowing the channelling of resources to programme areas where they are most needed.

Additional and complementary earmarked funds can then be used to bring solutions to scale in different contexts.
While regular resources remain the most flexible contributions for UNICEF, thematic other resources (OR+) are the second-most efficient and effective contributions to the organization and act as complementary funding. Thematic funding is allocated internally on a needs basis, and allows for longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. A funding pool has been established for each of the Strategic Plan 2014–2017 outcome areas, as well as for humanitarian action and gender. Resource partners can contribute thematic funding at the global, regional or country levels.

Contributions from all resource partners to the same outcome area and humanitarian action are combined into one pooled-fund account with the same duration, which simplifies financial management and reporting for UNICEF. A single annual consolidated narrative and financial report is provided at global, regional and country levels that is the same for all resource partners. Due to reduced administrative costs, thematic contributions are subject to a lower cost recovery rate, to the benefit of UNICEF and resource partners alike. For more information on thematic funding, and how it works, please visit [www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html](http://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/66662_66851.html).

**PARTNER TESTIMONIAL**

“Helping children in need is the most important investment that we can make to achieve development, human rights, peace and stability. UNICEF is a key partner in this respect. [...] The flexibility of UNICEF’s thematic funding allows us to reach the most vulnerable children, improve the effectiveness of our response and achieve better results. It also enables us to promote innovation and sustainability, improve coordination and long-term planning, and reduce transaction costs.

In accordance with its mandate, UNICEF works to promote the protection of children’s rights and the fulfilment of their basic needs, and to increase children’s opportunities so that they can reach their full potential. In today’s world, UNICEF’s work to fulfil this mandate is more important than ever.”

Børge Brende
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Government of Norway
Of the US$5,169 million of UNICEF’s revenue in 2014, US$3,843 million were other resources. Of these, US$341 million constituted thematic contributions, marking a 5 per cent decrease from the US$359 million received in 2013. This reflects a continuing decline in thematic funding as a percentage of other resources, from an all-time high of 21 per cent in 2010, to an all-time low of just under 9 per cent in 2014 (see Figure 7).

**FIGURE 7**

**OTHER RESOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS 2006–2014: THEMATIC VS. NON-THEMATIC**

Of the US$244 million other resources to child protection in 2014, 91 per cent were highly earmarked funds (see Figure 8). The remainder were thematic contributions. Of the US$22 million in thematic contributions, 61 per cent was given most flexibly at the global level. Less flexible funding continues to be a challenge for UNICEF, as resources and efforts shift to preparing project proposals and reporting for tighter earmarked contributions.
Despite a gradual decrease in earmarked funding to the sector since 2012, thematic funding for child protection increased by 29 per cent compared with 2013, and rose as a percentage of other resources to the sector overall (see Figure 9).
Seventy per cent of thematic contributions received for child protection came from three government partners (see Table 1). The Government of Sweden was the largest thematic resource partner, providing more than half of all thematic contributions received, the majority at the global level (versus country and regional levels). The Government of Norway also provided the most flexible funding in the form of a single global thematic contribution, while the Government of the Netherlands contributed to child protection at the country level in the Republic of Moldova.

Sizeable thematic contributions were received at the country level from the National Committees of Ireland, the Netherlands and Korea (see Table 1), while the Committees of Norway, Spain, Denmark and the United States all provided flexible global-level thematic funding.

UNICEF is seeking to broaden and diversify its funding base (including thematic contributions). The number of partners contributing thematic funding to child protection remained 22 in 2014.

* Regular resources are not included since they are not linked to any one outcome or cross-cutting area at the time of contribution by a partner.

* Change in accounting policy to IPSAS on 1 January 2012 does not allow for comparisons between 2012 figures and prior years.
The decline in thematic funding, including having received no gender equality thematic contributions (see Figure 10), needs to be addressed to fulfil the shared commitment made by UNICEF partners to provide more flexible and pooled funding. In the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review resolution, Member States called for enhanced cost-effectiveness, highlighting pooled funding modalities as a means of achieving this objective. Subsequently, the dialogue on financing the Strategic Plan structured by the UNICEF Executive Board called for partners to enhance the flexibility and predictability of resources aligned to the organization’s strategic mandate. Board Members further chose to highlight the importance of thematic funds as an important complement to regular resources for both development and humanitarian programming and the links between the two, in line with UNICEF’s universal mandate and in support of country-specific priorities.

### TABLE 1

**THEMATIC REVENUE BY RESOURCE PARTNER, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource partner type</th>
<th>Resource partner</th>
<th>Amount (in US$)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governments 70%</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>11,591,446</td>
<td>51.52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>4,190,412</td>
<td>18.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>57,160</td>
<td>0.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Committees 27%</td>
<td>Irish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,700,000</td>
<td>7.56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Netherlands Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,470,283</td>
<td>6.53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Korean Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>4.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States Fund for UNICEF</td>
<td>563,693</td>
<td>2.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>324,912</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Czech Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>261,713</td>
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<td>Andorran Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>Polish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>112,347</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Luxembourg Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>111,413</td>
<td>0.50%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spanish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>99,488</td>
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<td>Italian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>78,960</td>
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<td>Belgian Committee for UNICEF</td>
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<td>Finnish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>50,441</td>
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<td>Danish Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>47,190</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Canadian Committee for UNICEF</td>
<td>12,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Offices PSFR 3%</td>
<td>UNICEF Malaysia</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Thailand</td>
<td>300,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>UNICEF Yemen</td>
<td>8,800</td>
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<td>UNICEF Sri Lanka</td>
<td>1,637</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>22,498,705</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FIGURE 10
THEMATIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AND CROSS-CUTTING AREAS, 2014: US$341 MILLION
UNICEF expenditure for child protection was US$514.4 million in 2014, representing 12 per cent of the organization’s total programme expenditure. Expenses are higher than the income received, as while income reflects only earmarked donor contributions to the specific outcome area in 2014, the expenses are against total allotments including regular resources and other resources (balances carried over from prior years) which are contributing to the same programme outcome area.

**TABLE 2**

**TOTAL UNICEF EXPENDITURE BY STRATEGIC PLAN OUTCOME AREA AND FUNDING SOURCE, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome area</th>
<th>Other resources – (emergency)</th>
<th>Other resources (regular)</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
<th>Expenditures (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>250,129,359</td>
<td>729,517,594</td>
<td>249,330,250</td>
<td>1,228,977,204</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV and AIDS</td>
<td>4,030,935</td>
<td>65,633,899</td>
<td>37,451,004</td>
<td>107,115,838</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>349,811,171</td>
<td>276,212,322</td>
<td>101,344,461</td>
<td>727,367,953</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>245,138,305</td>
<td>173,477,324</td>
<td>65,561,501</td>
<td>484,177,129</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>182,614,274</td>
<td>508,003,766</td>
<td>135,605,237</td>
<td>826,223,276</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>150,462,660</td>
<td>218,019,161</td>
<td>145,870,856</td>
<td>514,352,677</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Inclusion</td>
<td>21,112,189</td>
<td>96,414,231</td>
<td>125,071,950</td>
<td>242,598,370</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grand total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,203,298,893</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,067,278,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>860,235,259</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,130,812,447</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Within child protection, the greatest expenditure in 2014 was on UNICEF’s work to support interventions in emergencies, accounting for 34 per cent of the total.

### TABLE 3

**TOTAL UNICEF EXPENSES BY CHILD PROTECTION PROGRAMME AREA AND FUNDING SOURCE, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme area</th>
<th>Other resources (emergency)</th>
<th>Other resources (regular)</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
<th>% to Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data and child protection</td>
<td>552,801</td>
<td>4,284,977</td>
<td>3,277,970</td>
<td>8,115,749</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection systems</td>
<td>5,783,356</td>
<td>35,598,098</td>
<td>29,222,136</td>
<td>70,603,590</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violence, exploitation and abuse</td>
<td>12,214,128</td>
<td>33,827,202</td>
<td>20,558,008</td>
<td>66,599,338</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice for children</td>
<td>610,649</td>
<td>15,578,741</td>
<td>11,492,545</td>
<td>27,681,935</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth registration</td>
<td>280,296</td>
<td>13,195,183</td>
<td>8,528,863</td>
<td>22,004,343</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection and emergencies</td>
<td>115,726,746</td>
<td>37,946,794</td>
<td>18,969,343</td>
<td>172,642,883</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthening families and communities</td>
<td>5,212,386</td>
<td>39,388,486</td>
<td>14,751,718</td>
<td>59,352,590</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection –general</td>
<td>10,082,297</td>
<td>38,199,679</td>
<td>39,070,273</td>
<td>87,352,249</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>150,462,660</td>
<td>218,019,161</td>
<td>145,870,856</td>
<td>514,352,677</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure includes funds used in a cross-thematic manner or to cover operational costs. Without such cross-thematic and operational usage, outcomes area results would often be compromised or not achieved.
In 2014, the largest expenditure for child protection was in the Eastern and Southern Africa region, followed by the West and Central Africa region and the Middle East and North Africa region. Together these regions accounted for 68 per cent of total expenditure for child protection.

**TABLE 4**

**EXPENDITURE ON CHILD PROTECTION, BY REGION AND FUNDING SOURCE, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Other resources (emergency)</th>
<th>Other resources (regular)</th>
<th>Regular resources</th>
<th>Grand total</th>
<th>Total expenditure (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
<td>1,526,007</td>
<td>15,131,621</td>
<td>7,888,819</td>
<td>24,546,447</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>7,804,648</td>
<td>20,627,348</td>
<td>11,893,928</td>
<td>40,325,925</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
<td>20,085,557</td>
<td>62,906,127</td>
<td>35,018,545</td>
<td>118,010,230</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNICEF headquarters</td>
<td>2,237,904</td>
<td>12,286,784</td>
<td>6,293,336</td>
<td>20,818,023</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>4,033,632</td>
<td>24,625,741</td>
<td>10,691,190</td>
<td>39,350,563</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
<td>81,978,758</td>
<td>19,019,933</td>
<td>13,709,262</td>
<td>114,707,953</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>1,438,426</td>
<td>20,510,677</td>
<td>20,011,814</td>
<td>41,960,917</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West and Central Africa</td>
<td>31,357,727</td>
<td>42,910,930</td>
<td>40,363,962</td>
<td>114,632,619</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand total</td>
<td>150,462,660</td>
<td>218,019,161</td>
<td>145,870,856</td>
<td>514,352,677</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUTURE WORKPLAN**

The progress and results achieved in the first year of the Strategic Plan 2014–2017 establish a baseline by which to measure progress over the next three years and beyond. UNICEF will build on achievements and partnerships to date, and proactively use the lessons learned to feed into ongoing strategies planned to overcome key bottlenecks that impede achievement of long-term targets. Also, 2015 will see a renewed emphasis on data collection, monitoring and evaluation, including the use of routine administrative data sources for child protection. This will include improving data collection for all programme areas, such as death and injury due to violence, abuse, exploitation and neglect, on children in alternative care, and further investment at country level.
to strengthen the overall evidence base on child protection interventions that are effective in various contexts. UNICEF will build on the progress made to date and identify a number of priority actions around each programme area, paying particular attention to the alignment of UNICEF action within the broader global post-2015 context and SDGs as eventually adopted.

To improve a coordinated and cohesive approach to child protection, UNICEF and a range of partners are recommending the establishment of a global Child Protection Partnership, with an associated Fund, to end violence against children. The proposal will capitalize on the opportunity created by the inclusion of an explicit target for protecting children from violence in the SDGs. The universal scope of the SDGs also provides a platform to address the issue of violence against children in all countries. UNICEF is currently leading an ongoing process of consultations, round tables, meetings, etc., with all relevant child protection stakeholders, to determine the scope the child protection partnership and fund.

Work will continue on the systems strengthening agenda (which includes the provision of services to children) with countries, increasingly building on the information gathered during child protection systems mapping and assessment exercises. At a global level, it is intended to carry out the pilot testing for the child protection benchmarking methodology, to assess government expenditure on child protection. The field tests, in up to three countries, will inform the development of a manual for use by UNICEF child protection specialists, which will support their advocacy not only with ministries of social welfare, but also with finance ministries to allocate appropriate resources. In addition, UNICEF will advocate strongly for the strengthening of the social welfare workforce. It is also planned to launch an evaluation of child protection systems work, to assess its impact for children.

UNICEF will continue to focus its efforts towards ensuring that programmes addressing violence against children will utilize proven, evaluated approaches and a more comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework that not only measures the reduction of violence, but that also allows for measuring the impact of social change over time. UNICEF, together with partners, will invest in analysing existing evaluated practices in these areas, extracting information on interventions that ‘work’ and translate that into guidance for programming. Additional assistance will be provided for increasing the capacity of UNICEF offices to develop and implement monitoring mechanisms to ensure sustainability in measuring impact. UNICEF will provide continued support and leadership in ending violence against children and advocate at strategic forums to keep that issue high on the post-2015 agenda. UNICEF will advance the work with the Together for Girls partnership and around building an evidence base on programmes addressing corporal punishment, violence in schools, and in early childhood and sexual violence. In terms of child labour, UNICEF will focus on such issues in 12 key countries, solidifying existing relationships and developing a meaningful engagement of companies in the target countries, including the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, India, Morocco, Myanmar, Turkey, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

To accelerate progress on the prevention and response to sexual violence against children, UNICEF will advance the work on child online protection in follow-up to the Global Summit, publish and disseminate the evidence review on effective strategies for the prevention and response to child sexual abuse and exploitation in and out of emergency contexts, and produce a global guidance document and a monitoring and evaluation framework for interventions addressing child sexual abuse and exploitation. With ECPAT, international collaboration will focus on the contribution to the Global Study on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation of Children in Travel and Tourism, and the Interagency Terminology and Semantics Project aiming to develop guidance on commonly agreed terminology on child sexual exploitation. UNICEF will also finalize an evaluation on violence prevention programmes, which was initiated in 2013 and will be completed in 2015. This will provide an important analysis of interventions supported to address violence from 2008–2014 and will help to inform future practice.

Criminal justice systems remain at the heart of justice for children efforts. Countries are taking steps to be in line with international standards on child-friendly approaches, such as by introducing specialized institutions and human resources or by sustainably engaging in non-custodial options, but much work is still required. UNICEF will support the actions outlined in the CEE/CIS multi-country evaluation of the impact of juvenile justice system reforms on children in conflict with the law. On a global level, UNICEF is participating in the recently launched Global Study on Legal Aid led
by the United Nations Development Programme and UNODC to provide a child’s rights perspective and in-country experience. The study is aimed at strengthening the knowledge and evidence base on legal aid, and will gather information on the ‘state of legal aid’ worldwide to inform priorities and programmes on legal aid reform. Conditional to the Secretary-General’s request, UNICEF may also contribute to a planned Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty. Finally, addressing justice for children beyond criminal justice systems, UNICEF is also collaborating with the law firm DLA Piper to undertake a legal analysis of inheritance rights in sub-Saharan Africa.

UNICEF will continue to invest in supporting regional intergovernmental initiatives, such as the APAI-CRVS, in order to maintain momentum gained through the broad support for the inclusion of a target on birth registration in the SDGs. UNICEF will document good practices and innovative approaches – around the introduction of ICT, inter-operability between the civil registration services and health sectors, and reaching marginalized groups – to share evidence of ‘what works’ in a variety of contexts. In particular, as more and more countries focus on ICT solutions to the development of CRVS, UNICEF will engage in advocacy and promotion of the guidelines from the Bern Conference. UNICEF will also engage in a number of initiatives focused on building financial support for CRVS reform work – including a CRVS global funding mechanism, led by WHO.

The investment in longer-term emergency response is emerging as an entry point to build community capacity and address protection concerns in a sustainable manner. For example, the identification of children most at risk – whether in need of family tracing or psychosocial support or in response to GBV – is the basis for identifying specific needs and provision of services over a longer term, generating a system for referral and case management. Key areas of focus for child protection in emergencies will include improving referral and case management for delivery of services to the most vulnerable children in emergencies. Efforts will continue to strengthen systems for child protection, including for early recovery and preparedness and for more sustainable results, and integrating child protection programming into resilience and peace-building in fragile and conflict-affected states, as well as integrating child protection response in emergencies with other sectors. Of equal importance is the plan to develop monitoring and evaluation framework that measures impacts of response on children’s well-being, in order to inform advocacy and programme response in areas such as mental health and psychosocial support and GBV in emergencies. Underpinning all this is the ongoing efforts to build the capacity of UNICEF and partners for child protection deployment in Level 3 humanitarian response.

As part of the global priorities around harmful practices, notably FGM/C and child marriage, UNICEF will increase its technical resources to ensure quality implementation at all levels. By the end of 2015, UNICEF aims to have two functional and complementary programmatic platforms at the global level to accelerate the elimination of FGM/C and child marriage. Focus will be placed on completing the inception phase of the global child marriage programme in 12 countries with a rigorous analysis of child marriage data and current programming in relation to United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, Country Programme Documents and national sectoral plans and/or child marriage plans, leading to a proposed four-year plan. The programme will be launched in conjunction with UNFPA. In line with the 2013 joint evaluation management response, UNICEF will support strengthening of the implementation of a results-based management strategy for 17 countries on FGM/C, leading to increased data availability and more effective programming. To drive the knowledge base, UNICEF will publish findings from recent research on social norms and values deliberation as a contribution to the field of behaviour change for child protection and gender equality. UNICEF will continue to focus its efforts towards ensuring that programmes geared to strengthening the protective role of parents and eliminating violence in the home are being systematically monitored and measured through comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework. UNICEF plans to develop a tool to measure the implementation of the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, together with the Better Care Network and other partners. Together with partners, UNICEF will continue to invest in evaluating existing practices in this area, and building on the evidence base of ‘what works’ to support programme development and strengthening. UNICEF will also work towards assessing the benefits of integrating positive discipline modules into existing parenting programmes, building on existing resources and efforts and aiming towards an integrated approach to family strengthening.
UNICEF expresses its sincere appreciation to all resource partners that contributed to the work on child protection in 2014 through this thematic funding window. Thematic funding contributes towards UNICEF’s provision of technical, operational and programming support to countries in all regions to deliver quality services for the protection of children. Thematic funding provides greater flexibility, longer-term planning and sustainability of programmes. It reflects the trust resource partners have in the capacity and ability of UNICEF to deliver quality support under all circumstances, and contributed towards making possible the results described in this report.

Special thanks go to the Governments of Sweden and Norway for providing consistent and generous global thematic contributions for the protection of children. Acknowledgement is also noted of UNICEF’s strong partnership with National Committees, noting in particular the generosity in 2014 of the National Committees of Ireland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea and the United States.
# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>APAI-CRVS</td>
<td>Accelerated Improvement of Civil Registration and Vital Statistics programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAAC</td>
<td>children and armed conflict</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRVS</td>
<td>civil registry and vital statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM/C</td>
<td>female genital mutilation/cutting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>gender-based violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>information and communication technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ILO</td>
<td>International Labour Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MoRES</td>
<td>Monitoring Results for Equity System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRM</td>
<td>Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>non-governmental organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRIMERO</td>
<td>Protection Related Information Management for Emergency Response Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRSG</td>
<td>Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNODC</td>
<td>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHO</td>
<td>World Health Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
END NOTES

5. From Research to Action to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Children: Swaziland, 28–30 May 2014.
6. For example, see <www.wiwid2015.org>.
7. In addition to UNICEF, the INGOs included ChildFund Alliance, PLAN International, Save the Children, SoS Children’s Villages, World Vision International.
8. An elected 30-member (from 70 Member States) Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly is tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs.
10. For the purpose of the report, the 2014 results for child protection are organized into programme areas. However, it is important to note that in practice the programme areas described below are deeply integrated and part of a holistic approach to achieving success in the sector. The following programme areas are presented: 1) child protection systems (which, alongside social norms, encompasses our overarching approach to child protection programming); followed by specific results in the areas of 2) violence, exploitation and abuse; 3) justice for children; 4) birth registration; 5) child protection in emergencies; 6) strengthening families and communities, and 7) data and child protection. The implementation strategies used by UNICEF to achieve results will be explored in more detail under each programme area.
11. In this section, global expenditure figures for each programme area are exclusive of cross-sectoral costs.
12. The social services workforce consists of a number of cadres, depending on the country context, including volunteers (including members of community-based child protection committees), community or religious leaders, para-social workers, fully qualified social workers, and potential others such as health workers or teachers.
16. Tuseme is a Swahili phrase that means ‘let’s speak out’. For more details see <www.unicef.org/asaro/6440_tanzania_2014_tuseme.html>.
18. It is noted that this figure refers to children reached as a result of specific UNICEF-targeted interventions in those countries only, not all children reached as part of multi-agency interventions to tackle all forms of child labour.
19. For example, the Beijing rules (1985), which details the development of a separate and specialised child justice system (including with diversion from court procedures, detention as a measure of last resort and for the shortest possible time, alternatives to detention).
20. The APAI-CRVS is a regional initiative of over 40 African Ministries responsible for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) that aims to reform and improve national CRVS systems, including the institutional and operational linkages, workflows and results management mechanisms, and ensure these reforms encompass the inter-disciplinary and inter-sectoral interface of CRVS systems.
21. The UN JPP is a partnership between UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP, ILO, IOM, UNAIDS, UN HABITAT and UN WOMEN and the Government of Uganda.
23. The Romeo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative is a global partnership that is committed to ending the recruitment and use of child soldiers worldwide through advocacy, training and capacity building of security sector actors.
27. Safe and Sound; What States can do to ensure respect for the best interests of unaccompanied and separated children in Europe, UNICEF and UNHCR, 2014.
31. See UNICEF’s Social Inclusion Annual Results Report 2014 for further details on social protection work.
33. See Strategic Context and Violence Against Children Programme Areas for further detail.
34. All these reports are available on UCW website: <www.ucw-project.org/Pages/country_reports.aspx>.
35. Estimation based on a sample of nearly 70,000 detained children extracted from 64 country office annual reports.
36. Regular resources are not included since they are not linked to any one outcome or cross-cutting area at the time of contribution by a partner. For an analysis of regular resources per outcome or cross-cutting area, see the report section on Financial Implementation.
37. This capture ORE humanitarian expenditure, it does not include expenditure related to humanitarian action from RR or ORR.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
<th>2014 update or data from most recent year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6a. Number of violent deaths per 100,000 children</td>
<td>2.0 Male</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Updated data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.9 Female</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6b. Percentage of women 20–24 who were married or in a union by age 18</td>
<td>34% (2005–2012) [excluding China]</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>27% (2005–2013) [excluding China]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6c. Percentage of children under five whose birth is registered</td>
<td>65% (2005–2012)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>72% (2005–2013) [excluding China]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.1 Countries with 10% reduction in proportion of girls 15–17 years who have ever experienced sexual violence (forced to have sexual intercourse or perform any other sexual acts against one’s will) in countries with prevalence of at least 5% †</td>
<td>Out of 24 countries with data and prevalence of &gt; 5%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Prevalence of at least 5%: 30 out of 40 UNICEF programme countries with data (2004–2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.2 Countries with 10% reduction in proportion of children 2–14 years who experience violent disciplinary practices by an adult member of the household (definition will change by 2017 to ages 1–14 years)</td>
<td>Out of 53 countries with data</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.3 Countries with 20% reduction in number of children in detention per 100,000 child population</td>
<td>Out of 80 countries with data</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>54 out of 93 UNICEF programme countries with data (2014)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.4 Countries with 30% or more reduction in proportion of girls 0–14 years undergoing female genital mutilation/cutting</td>
<td>Out of 17 countries with UNICEF/UNFPA joint programme (2000–2012)</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.5 Countries with 20% reduction in proportion of children 5–14 years involved in child labour, in countries with prevalence of at least 10% (definition will change by 2017 to refer to ages 5–17 years)</td>
<td>58 with &gt;10% prevalence</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Prevalence of at least 10%: 56 out of 98 UNICEF programme countries with data (2005–2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.6 Countries with 20% reduction in proportion of children in residential care (out of all children in formal care)</td>
<td>Out of 113 countries with data over 2010–2012</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>91 UNICEF programme countries have data for both residential care and formal care (2014) (Reporting on reduction becomes available for 2015 results in early 2016.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.7 Countries with 10% reduction in proportion of women 20–24 years married by age 18 years, in countries with prevalence of at least 25%</td>
<td>50 (2010–2012)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Prevalence of at least 25%: 38 out of 74 UNICEF programme countries with data (2010–2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P6.8 Percentage of parties to conflict listed in the annex to the Secretary-General’s report on children and armed conflict that enter into action plans to end grave violations against children</td>
<td>6 of 8 governments (75%) Armed group – 1 out of 8 countries (12.5%)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6 out of 8 (75%) State parties 3 out of 51 (6%) non-state parties (2014)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
P6.a.1
Number of countries in which UNICEF supported programmes to prevent inter-personal violence reach at least 75% of the target population of children at risk 🅱️

Baseline 1/2014 update
Sexual violence: 9
Physical violence: 5
More than one form of violence: 7

2017 Target TBD

P6.a.2
Countries with 75% of targeted parents reached by programmes addressing child-rearing practices

Baseline 2014 update 3
2 out of 71 countries

2017 Target 65 out of 71 countries

Output Indicators

Sexual violence
Physical violence
More than one form of violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Albania</td>
<td>Albania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Congo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo</td>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saint Lucia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below 75%

CEE/CIS
- Albania
- Armenia
- Belarus
- Bulgaria
- Kazakhstan
- Kosovo
- Moldova
- Romania
- Serbia
- Turkey

ESAR
- Burundi
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Mozambique
- Rwanda
- South Africa
- Swaziland
- Tanzania, United Republic of

EAPR
- Fiji
- Indonesia
- Mongolia
- Myanmar
- Vietnam

LACR
- Belize
- El Salvador
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Panama
- Paraguay
- Suriname

MENA
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Libya
- Syria
- Arab Republic
- Yemen

South Asia
- Bangladesh

WCAR
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Central African Republic
- Congo
- Equatorial Guinea
- Gabon
- Ghana
- Liberia
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Sierra Leone


1,007 communities have participated in a public declaration of support for the abandonment of FGM/C in 2014.

SPPL

Number of communities in programme areas having made public declarations of support for the abandonment of FGM/C

2014 1,007
P6.b.1

Countries with functioning child protection systems offering preventive and response services

Baseline † 33  2014 update 38
2017 Target 100

P6.b.2

Countries with availability of free and universal birth registration

Baseline † / 2014 update 114
2017 Target 135

P6.b.3

Countries in which procedures and services for children in contact with law are applied and delivered in line with international norms

Baseline † / 2014 update 80
2017 Target 50

P6.b.4

Countries (of those with child marriage prevalence is 25% or higher) with national strategies or plans on child marriage with a budget*

Baseline † 1
2014 update 2
2017 Target 12

Note: *Refers to costed national plans/strategies that address child marriage.

Countries in which education, social protection and child protection interventions have reached 50% of children 5–17 years involved in child labour (in countries with prevalence of at least 5%)

Number of children (aged 5–17 years) involved in child labour who were reached by one or more UNICEF-supported education, social protection or child protection interventions in 2014

Globally 4,469,081 children were reached by at least one UNICEF-supported education, social protection or child protection interventions in 2014.

Countries with comprehensive national approaches on early childhood development (ECD) that include budgets and functioning coordination mechanisms

**P6.c.1**

Countries with legislation on child protection consistent with or better than international standards

Baseline / 2014 update

33 (countries meeting all standards listed below)

i) Key articles of the CRC: 100

ii) The Beijing Rules of Justice: 68

iii) The 2009 Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children: 58

2017 Target: 100

---

**P6.c.2**

Countries with legislation in place that recognize children’s right to be heard in civil and administrative proceedings that affect them (in line with Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child)

Baseline / 2014 update: 119

2017 Target: 35

---

**SPPL.**

Number of countries with an alternative care policy aligned to the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of children

2014: 58

P6.d.1
Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations benefitting from psychosocial support

Baseline  NA  
2014 update  3,075,631 (81.2%)  
2017 Target  >80%


P6.d.2
Countries in humanitarian action where country sub-cluster or sector coordination mechanism for a) child protection, b) gender-based violence meet CCC standards for coordination

Baseline
a) 31  
b) 14

2014 update
a) 14 countries (74% of 19 Child Protection sub-Cluster countries)  
b) 12 countries (50% of 24 GBV sub-Cluster countries)

2017 Target  100%

Note: Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action standards for coordination defined as: convening partners; establishing terms of reference for coordination; establishing cluster operational strategy/action plan; performance management system in place; sector coverage known from cluster reporting.

Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children and women in humanitarian situations who experience sexual violence and receive multi-sectoral support services (e.g. health, psychosocial, livelihood/economic strengthening and justice)

**Baseline** NA  
**2014 update** 432,757 (79.2%)  
**2017 Target** > 80%

---

Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children in humanitarian situations receiving appropriate alternative care services

**Baseline** NA  
**2014 update** 33,331 (39.3%)  
**2017 Target** > 80%

---

Note: Figures include children who are registered as unaccompanied or separated only.

Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children associated with armed forces and groups who have been released and reintegrated with their families and/or receive appropriate care and services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2014 update</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>10,204 (released), 3.3%; 8,390 (reintegrated), 2.7%; 86,877 (receiving services), 27.8%</td>
<td>&gt; 80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
P6.d.6

Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children who benefit from relevant mine action interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2014 update</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2,208,912</td>
<td>&gt;80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of people targeted for Mine Risk Education (prevention):

- WCAR: 565,171 (26%)
- CEE/CIS: 510,000 (23%)
- EAPR: 0 (0%)
- ESAR: 300,400 (14%)
- LACR: 21,645 (1%)
- MENA: 625,374 (28%)
- South Asia: 186,322 (8%)
- MENA: 625,374 (28%)
- South Asia: 186,322 (8%)

Globally 309 child survivors and victims of landmines/ERW (16.7% of targeted) received appropriate support in humanitarian situations in 2014.


P6.d.7

Number of humanitarian situations with UNICEF-supported mechanisms to monitor and report on grave violations against children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline</th>
<th>2014 update</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number and percentage of UNICEF-targeted children who benefit from relevant mine action interventions:

- WCAR: 4 (27%)
- CEE/CIS: 0 (0%)
- EAPR: 2 (13%)
- ESAR: 2 (13%)
- LACR: 1 (6%)
- MENA: 4 (27%)
- South Asia: 1 (7%)
- Multiple regions: 1 (7%)

### P6.e.1

**Countries that collect and publish routine administrative data on violence, exploitation and abuse of children, including violent deaths and injuries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPR</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESAR</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All regions</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.

### P6.e.2

**Countries that have revised or improved child protection policies on the basis of a gender review supported by UNICEF**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2017 Target</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEE/CIS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAPR</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESAR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LACR</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MENA</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCAR</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDCs</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** UNICEF country offices, 2014.
P6.f.1

Number of peer-reviewed journal or research publications by UNICEF on Child Protection

Baseline † / 2014 update  49
2017 Target  10

Note: Data reflect number of papers that UNICEF country offices have authored or co-authored in peer-reviewed journals in 2014.

P6.f.2

Number of key global and regional Child Protection initiatives in which UNICEF is the co-chair or provides coordination support

Baseline  15  2014 update  36
2017 Target  TBD

Global initiatives
- Armed Violence Prevention Programme (AVPP)
- Better Care Network (BCN)
- Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies
- CP Information Management System (CPIMS) Steering Committee
- Child Protection Monitoring and Evaluation Reference Group (CP MERG)
- Child Protection Working Group (CPWG)
- The Code
- Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA)
- GBV Information Management System (GBVIMS) Steering Committee
- Global Coalition to Prevent Education Under Attack (CPEA)
- Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT)
- Global Movement for Children
- Global Task Force CAAC
- Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict
- IASC MHPSS Reference group (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support)
- Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)
- Inter-Agency Working Group on Unaccompanied and Separated Children
- International Mine Action Standards Review Board (IMAS-RB)
- Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ)
- Inter-Agency Task Team for children affected by HIV and AIDS (IATT (CABA))
- KNOW Violence
- MRM Technical Reference Group
- Optional Protocol Campaign
- Paris Principles Steering Group
- Real Time Accountability Partnership on GBV in Emergencies
- Religions for Peace/DPAC
- Rule of Law Coordination & Resource Group (RoLCRG)
- Safe Access to Fuel and Energy (SAFE) Reference Group
- Social Service Workforce Alliance (SSWA)
- Together for Girls
- UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Understanding Children’s Work (UCW)
- UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme
- UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Mine Action (IACG-MA)
- Violence Prevention Alliance
